# FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

# Soviet Union

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## KARPOV IZVESTIYA INTERVIEW ON INF, SDI

PM221800 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 3

[Interview with V.P. Karpov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Administration for Problems of Arms Limitation and Disarmament, by A. Shalnev: "V. Karpov: Isn't Their 'Zero Option' a Bluff?"; date and place of interview unspecified; first paragraph is IZVESTIYA introduction]

[Text] "An agreement on eliminating Euromissiles can be prepared in 3 or 4, or at most 5 or 6, months. But for this to happen, desire and good will are needed on both sides," V.P. Karpov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Administration for Problems of Arms Limitation and Disarmament, stressed in an interview for IZVESTIYA. However, he noted that "if, instead of a real agreement, they try to palm us off with a scrap of paper covering up the preservation of the U.S. nuclear missile potential in Europe, we will not agree to that."

[Shalnev] The other day the U.S. Army deputy chief of staff made the following statement: If a Euromissiles agreement is reached with the Soviet Union, the U.S. Army intends to turn the NATO medium-range missiles deployed in Europe into short-range missiles. How are such statements to be assessed?

[Karpov] Unfortunately, that is not the position of the U.S. Army deputy chief of staff alone. That is also the official U.S. position at the Geneva talks. The proposals submitted by the U.S. delegation at Geneva provide for the possibility of converting medium-range missiles, in particular, the Pershing-2 missiles, into missiles with a shorter-than-medium range. In fact, to do this you need only remove the second stage from the Pershing-2 missiles. If this proposal were followed, then effectively all 108 Pershings would remain in Europe -- and, moreover, the installations servicing them would be preserved too. In addition, the United States is proposing that the cruise missiles deployed in Europe not be destroyed either, but be transported elsewhere for deployment on surface ships and submarines, for instance. In other words, Washington would clearly like to retain all these medium-range means, but merely under another label. The following fact is also of considerable importance: If Pershing-2 missiles can be easily converted to Pershing-1 missiles or the Pershing-1B version of them, it will clearly be just as easy to restore them to their original status by adding a second stage.

To sum up, I would say this: There is more and more evidence that the United States does not really want the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe, that the "zero option" was a bluff right from the start, and that Washington by no means wanted a situation in which it would have to eliminate the Pershing-2 and cruise missiles. As for us, we are prepared to eliminate all our medium-range missiles in Europe and to destroy all the SS-20's -- and there are 243 of them -- along with their launchers. We would like the United States to act in the same way. To this end we are proposing that the dismantling and destruction of the missiles be rigorously monitored [kontrol]. The bases where missiles are sited must be monitored and inspected [stat obyektom kontrolya, obyektom inspektsii]. The same goes for the relevant enterprises.

[Shalnev] What about the private U.S. enterprises that produce the Pershings, say? What if the administration of these enterprises states that there can be no question of any inspection [inspektsiya] -- by anyone?

[Karpov] Domestic legislation must not impede the implementation of international commitments, especially in something as important as the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons. If an understanding is reached on eliminating medium-range missiles, there must be a reliable system of monitoring [kontrol]. References to domestic legislation can in no way serve as an excuse. If U.S. law prevents the carrying out of inspections [inspektsii] at private enterprises, it must be changed. The inspectors must be guaranteed access wherever necessary. There will be no problems on our side: The requisite inspection [inspektsiya] and the requisite monitoring [kontrol] will be ensured by the Soviet state in precise accordance with the commitments made under the treaty.

[Shalnev] You said: "If an understanding is reached..." Why "if"? Do you have any doubts?

[Karpov] Some elements of doubt remains. If the administration retains the position I have mentioned, what are we supposed to do -- embark on deception and simply sign a meaningless scrap of paper? We are interested in ensuring that an agreement is a real contribution to ensuring European security and ridding Europe of the nuclear threat. And if instead of this they try to palm us off with a scrap of paper in order to cover up the preservation of the U.S. nuclear missile potential, we will not agree to this.

[Shalnev] A different topic. The White House confirmed recently that it regards the so-called "broad" interpretation of the ABM Treaty as "legally justified." But what does the actual history of the talks that resulted in the reaching of the ABM agreement show? What does the process of the ratification of that agreement by the U.S. Senate show?

[Karpov] One thing: The only valid interpretation is the one that in fact was enshrined in the treaty from the outset -- the narrow interpretation, an interpretation designed to prevent large-scale ABM systems. It was only on the basis of that narrow interpretation that the treaty was ratified by the Senate, and the administration, as is confirmed by an analysis carried out by Senator Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has no right to attach any other interpretation to the treaty without the Senate's consent.

[Shalnev] Some voices in the United States are advocating that the documents of the talks that led to the ABM Treaty be declassified so that the groundlessnss of the administration's attempts to lend to the treaty a meaning different from that invested in it in 1972 can finally be made clear. Is this is good idea?

[Karpov] The main thing is the treaty itself. It says everything extremely clearly. As you know, the talks went on for several years. Quite naturally, during this process both sides expressed the most diverse viewpoints, which were later developed and supplemented, for instance, by taking the other side's viewpoint into account. In general, there was a process of seeking a solution. It was a kind of creative laboratory, and ideas emerged in the course of laboratory research only to die later. And these -- let's call them -- "dead-end ideas" will scarcely contribute anything now to understanding the essence of what happened during those years. The main thing is analysis of the treaty itself and its attendent documents. And this analysis unambiguously leads to the interpretation to which the Soviet Union subscribes and to which the United States also subscribed before October 1985, when Washington began the process of "reinterpreting" the treaty.

[Shalnev] One final point. Monday is the 4th anniversary of President Reagan's announcement of the "Strategic Defense Initiative." Have these 4 years brought the world closer to the goal for whose sake, so Washington claims, the SDI was conceived -- the goal of ridding mankind of nuclear weapons?

[Karpov] When he announced the SDI, President Reagan admitted that together with the nuclear offensive potential, the SDI program could be seen as evidence of aggressive intentions. Now we are obaining more and more facts corroborating that conclusion. These facts dirctly indicate that the SDI is not evidence of intentions to rid the world of nuclear weapons. It is evidence of intentions to create a potential that would provide the United States with the possibility of waging a nuclear war in the hope of winning it. ARMS CONTROL TODAY, a journal published in Washington, remarked in a recent issue that the SDI is, in addition to everything else, a "tight defense against any arms control measures." The essence of the SDI program is very accurately put.

## SEMEYKO ON 'DESTABILIZING' POTENTIAL OF SDI

PM171241 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[L. Semeyko article: "SDI Is a Path to Destabilization"]

[Text] The question of the pernicious consequences of the "Star Wars" program is becoming increasingly acute in relation to the U.S. Administration's desire to accelerate its implementation. One of these consequences would be the destabilization of the strategic balance. Why? What could all these lead to?

Let us turn first to the present strategic situation, which is characterized not only by approximate Soviet-American parity. Even without space strike arms it is extremely tense because the levels of military confrontation -- and nuclear confrontation above all -- are very high.

Therefore the existing equilibrium is not a panacea against the threat of nuclear war being unleashed. The inordinately high level of the balance of nuclear potentials for the time being ensures an equal danger for the opposing sides, whereas it is vitally necessary to ensure the reverse -- a situation of reliable and equal security. The new political thinking proposed by the Soviet Union indicates the ways to create this. These include an appeal to the United States and NATO to abandon the power politics of nuclear deterrence, reliance on which is now hindering the reduction and elimination of the nuclear threat by reducing and destroying nuclear arsenals. It is necessary to acknowledge the irrefutable truth that the more nuclear weapons there are, the greater is the likelihood of a fateful malfunction. It is exceptionally important to preserve the possibility of assured forecasting of the state of the strategic situation. This can only be achieved by means of an agreed reduction in the level of nuclear confrontation and the elimination of mistrust and mutual suspicion.

Soviet military doctrine envisages the need to maintain military-strategic parity, consistently lower its level, and strengthen strategic stability. The USSR has never initiated the development [razrabotka] and creation [sozdaniye] of new kinds of arms.

However, the U.S. military-political leadership adheres to opposite principles, which are passed off as something "new." Defense Secretary C. Weinberger poses the task of "defining anew the relationship between the USSR and the United States" in order to "build our relations from a position of strength and, in the long term, from a position of still greater strength." "Still greater strength" in the strategic sphere means not only the latest nuclear weapon systems but also space strike arms. This is precisely the monstrous symbiosis that can undermine both military-strategic equilibrium and the stability of the strategic situation as a whole and make the threat of war irreversible.

More and more new leaps in the race for interconnected -- space and nuclear -- arms would sharply change the nature of the correlation of strategic forces, make its objective assessment increasingly complex, and give rise to what is reasonably called strategic chaos. For it would be impossible to judge the state of the strategic chaos. For it would be impossible to judge the state of the strategic balance by comparing just what the United States calls the "nuclear sword," that is, strategic offensive forces. It would also be necessary to take into account the so-called "ABM shield," which would include space strike arms capable of fulfilling not only defensive but also offensive functions or, in other words, capable of ensuring the infliction of a first strike. It is also important to bear in mind the nuclear attack scenarios (which would be drawn up on the other side of the ocean in the hope of weakening a counterstrike with the help of the realized SDI program), the effectiveness of countermeasures (there could be many of them), and other factors.

It is hard to analyze the supposed results of the "star clash" which would ensue in the course of a sudden attack and a counterstrike. But even if particular results seemed convincing for one side, this certainly would not mean that analogous (or close) results would be obtained by the other side. Even now that military-strategic equilibrium between the USSR and the United States has been repeatedly verified by the sides, allegations of "Soviet superiority" are constantly emerging in Washington, albeit by way of political demagoguery. How, one wonders, would it be possible to assess the balance given the SDI program's implementation? The fact that there would be total discordance in such assessments follows from the strictly theoretical calculations already carried out in the United States. Thus, in June 1983 three commissions appointed by the U.S. President to assess the technological potential of the creation [sozdaniye] of an ABM system with space-based elements arrived, as American research points out, at "strikingly different assessments."

The most dangerous thing is the possible overestimation by the United States of its own military strength which, incidentally, has already happened at various times, starting with its securing of the nuclear monopoly. Now, in the future too, such an overestimation would increase the risk of nuclear buttons being pressed. Underestimation, in turn, would not only stimulate the arms race but also again give rise to the risk of war being unleashed.

A recent statement by former CIA Director S. Turner is noteworthy in this respect. Considering the hypothetical possibility of the deployment of a Soviet space ABM system, he said: "What would we do? I have no doubts about this. We would carry out an attack.... We would make a strike against components of its SDI at the time when it would be starting to build them. When the first modules have been put into space, we would destroy them with the help of our antisatellite weapon systems or simply by means of a nuclear explosion close to Soviet space stations."

Turner undoubtedly knows that the USSR has no intention of copying the American SDI. But with the aforesaid he willy-nilly confirms the extremely dangerous, provocative nature of the "Star Wars" program.

A disruption of the balance of military might would also be linked with the fact that space strike arms could also hit targets on earth. As is known, the sovereignty of a given state extends to the atmosphere above its national territory. And it has the incontestable right to defend it against invasion. But a far greater danger will stem from space, where the United States now wants to place weapons. "Such intentions," M.S. Gorbachev declared at the meeting with participants in the international forum "For a Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity," "represent an attempt to create a new instrument of blackmail with respect to independent states. Therefore, is it not time on an international legal plane to raise the question of a ban on 'driving' weapons into space over the heads of people of other countries?"

The Soviet Union is against the destabilization of the strategic situation and the transfer of the arms race into space. "True equal security in our age," the 27th CPSU Congress emphasized, "is guaranteed not by the highest possible but by the lowest possible level of strategic balance, from which nuclear and other kinds of mass destruction weapons must be totally eliminated." Here military potentials would be confined to the minimum limits of reasonable adequacy. The scale of military might must be precisely reasonable, that is, rule out not only the possibility of mutual destruction but also the likelihood of a sudden attack and meet the needs of defense, not of aggression. This approach is a very important component of the new political thinking, the only acceptable thinking in the nuclear and space age. For the time being, however, Washington has failed to realize this.

## U.S. REINTERPRETATION OF ABM TREATY CRITICIZED

### Bogachev Rejects U.S. View

LD201826 Moscow TASS in English 1812 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 20 TASS -- TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev:

U.S. President Ronald Reagan was asked at a news conference in Washington to comment on the conclusions of leading American specialists that the records of the talks on the limitation of anti-ballistic missile defense systems did not bear out a "broad" interpretation of the ABM treaty, which would allow the United States "lawfully" to go ahead with its "star wars" programme.

Reagan said that he had anticipated such a question and even had taken something along to the news conference. However, to the journalists' disappointment, he evaded the question. Instead, the President offered his own interpretation of a statement by the late Andrey Grechko, marshal of the Soviet Union, who some 15 years ago commented on the admissibility of research into anti-missile defenses within the limitations of the Soviet-American 1972 treaty. Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, voiced surprise about Reagan's statement and said that Marshal Grechko's views of 1972 were totally irrelevant to the "broader interpretation" of the ABM treaty now advocated by the U.S. Administration.

This manner of conducting news conference can be hardly explained away by the President's habitual forgetfulness and absent-mindedness. The world public also reacts skeptically to Reagan's explanation of his search for new "arguments" to back SDI by his desire to remain within legal stipulations.

The "Star Wars" proponents in the U.S. began their attacks on the ABM Treaty with legalistic claims that the sides had decided to limit only those ABM systems which had existed in 1972 and that ABM weapons based on new physical principles, such as laser and particle-beam technology, were not subject to any limitations. A painstaking analysis of the text of the treaty and supplements to it, which was conducted by leading specialists, including American ones, showed that the "legal arguments" of the White House in defense of "Star Wars" were built on sand.

Pentagon chief Caspar Weinberger and his aides then decided to prove the "admissibility" of the militarisation of space with quotations from the records of the Soviet-American talks. But those arguments, too, were rebutted by American participants in the ABM talks.

The fuss of the "Star Wars" apologists in Washington as they try to find justification for the "Strategic Defense Initiative" and the controversy and vagueness of their half-baked "arguments" forcefully demonstrate the true worth of the claims of the White House that it is going to respect the ABM Treaty and the obligation assumed at the Soviet-American summit in Geneva to make efforts to prevent the arms race from spreading into outer space.

## Reagan Remarks Cited

PM231413 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Questions Without Answers: White House Press Conference"]

[Text] Washington, 20 Mar -- President R. Reagan admitted at a news conference held in the White House that the Pentagon's desire to open the way for testing and deploying components of the "Star Wars" program in space is behind the plans to switch to the so-called "broad interpretation" of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (ABM Treaty). The President said that hitherto the United States had adhered to this document's traditional interpretation since, in his words, "this changed nothing for the Strategic Defense Initiative." "But," he went on, "as work within the SDI framework and the creation [sozdaniye] of SDI means advanced, we understood that a time was coming when this narrow interpretation of the ABM Treaty could only hinder us and pull back the work done by us on the creation [sozdaniye] of new systems." "You arrived at this broad interpretation quite some time ago. How soon do you intend to implement it?", he was asked. "We have not made a decision yet, since we are still acting within the narrow interpretation's framework and so far have had no grounds to go beyond it. It will be some time before we do so." Clearly preparing the ground to torpedo this document by means of, as he put it, a "more liberal" interpretation of the treaty, the President groundlessly claimed that the Soviet Union has by its own actions "gone altogether beyond the framework" of the ABM Treaty.

The remainder of the news conference was devoted almost entirely to the continuing scandal connected with the dirty tricks regarding the interference in Iran's affairs and the support for the "contra" gangs. This was the President's first news conference since last November, when Washington was swept by a wave of exposures of government lies, violations of the law, and deception of Congress and the U.S. public.

This speech by the President was considered "critically important" for the attempts by Reagan and his entourage to restore the country's confidence in the White House, a confidence which has now fallen to an all-time low. Virtually all the opinion polls show that the majority of Americans do not accept the "version" which the administration is trying to foist on them, namely that the President himself did not know what high-ranking National Security Council staffers were doing behind his back.

"Millions of Americans are suspicious that the truth has not been told yet," R. Byrd, Democratic leader in the Senate, pointed out the other day. On the eve of the press conference an NBC TV correspondent noted: "The main question is: Can Reagan do his job? Is he in charge of the administration?" A UPI correspondent pointed out in turn: "The public's image of him is bad. Confidence in the President has slumped. He has to explain his conduct."

Reagan's speech, however, provided no answer to the questions which have built up in the country. The President offered nothing new and essentially repeated the same old assertions. He admitted what, to put it mildly, he called the "inaccuracy" of his previous statements but he did not pluck up the courage to state that the whole operation was corrupt On the contrary, the President again defended it as a "well-motivated attempt distorted by the actions" of his advisers. The President denied that he knew anything about the transfer of funds to the "contras."

Against the background of such statements, of course, the first reaction here was one of disappointment. As CBS noted, "the Americans want to believe that their President is coping with his duties well. But many questions remain. This story is not over yet."

## Weinberger Interview Cited

LD222135 Moscow TASS in English 2107 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Washington March 22 TASS -- Caspar Weinberger, U.S. secretary of defense, gave an interview today to the "Meeting the Press" [as received] program of the NBC television company. He made it clear that Washington was not going to give up its attempts to pass over the so-called 'broad interpretation' of the 1972 Soviet-American ABM Treaty. Moreover, it followed from his statement that the administration and personally President Reagan were in a position to change contractual commitments of the United States if they hampered the implementation of militaristic plans of the Pentagon, ignoring the role of the American Senate which ratifies the treaties signed by the U.S.

## Moscow TV on U.S. Position

LD222105 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Mar 87

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Boris Kalyagin]

[Text] We have already reported the accident which occurred on the dry cargo ship Komsomolets Kirgizii, which went out of control and sank in the stormy waters of the Atlantic. It would have been a much more serious disaster if it were not for the airmen of the U.S. Coast Guard. They managed to deliver safe and sound from the shipwrecked vessel to the shore all the members of the Soviet crew. [video shows still of a shipwreck; group of men getting out of helicopter]

Our sailors have now returned home, but on the way they were invited to the White House by U.S. President Reagan. The successful evacuation of the crew, said the President, is yet another example of cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States in search and rescue operations. [video shows reception ceremony; Reagan greeting Coast Guard members]

We too have, on many occasions, rescued American sailors in distress. These instances clearly show just what good deeds could be performed by American and Soviet people if they were to act jointly, to cooperate. It's not just a question of rescuing individual ships. Our entire world ship has gotten into troubled waters and its holds are literally packed with nuclear cargo. Today, thanks to our country's initiative, there has appeared a genuine hope that we might soon get rid of a part of these deadly stocks -- or to be more specific, of medium-range nuclear missiles.

The U.S. newspaper CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR has called the Soviet medium-range missile proposal a life-belt for Reagan. What they mean is that the President's prestige is so dampened by Irangate that he can only be kept afloat by a major and historic decision, for which millions of Americans are waiting -- for example, an arms reduction.

Incidentally, about Irangate, at his latest news conference Reagan was literally ambushed by questions from journalists. Still the President did not manage to provide any kind of intelligible explanation of his behavior regarding the secret arms sale to Iran and the illegal transfer of funds to the Nicaraguan contras. The political scandal over Irangate is not dying down, but we, naturally, are far from exploiting the short-term zig-zags of Washington politics. Our position has been expressed sufficiently clearly. Valuable time must not be lost -- by waiting, for example, for the present administration to be replaced. It is essential to put an immediate stop to the arms race before it gets out of control.

For his part, the U.S. President has stated that he sees the possibility of substantial progress at the arms reduction talks with the Soviet Union. At the same time, it would seem that the U.S. administration is venturing into another political game in order to carve out maximum advantage for itself at the expense of the other side. For example, it is being stressed in every possible way that the new Soviet proposal, which takes into account Reagan's zero option, is, allegedly, the result of the U.S. President's firmness; that his tough line is bearing fruit. We shall not get into polemics with such statements for the moment. If it was just a matter of rhetoric then it wouldn't be so bad, but the U.S. Administration is undertaking specific actions which are destroying the basis for accords. Once again a complex dance has been started around the question of verification, but most importantly, the Soviet-American ABM Treaty is being undermined.

The White House has again spoken in favor of the so-called broader interpretation of the ABM Treaty. At his news conference, Ronald Reagan frankly admitted that the traditional -- i.e. commonly accepted -- interpretation of the treaty is hampering work in the framework of the Strategic Defense Initiative. For that reason, the United States intends to jettison the traditional interpretation and take up the broad interpretation of the agreement. This would allow them, on a legal basis, so to speak, to implement the Star Wars program.

This barely-disguised attempt at renouncing adherence to the treaty has aroused criticism in the U.S. Congress itself. Nunn, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has stated that there is no legal basis for the broad interpretation of the ABM Treaty. The U.S. Western European partners have also advocated adherence to the treaty.

After some hesitation, they have also supported the idea of an agreement on Euromissiles. At the same time, there has been an increasing number of calls for the need of the countries of Western Europe to work out an independent approach to disarmament problems. In this connection, particular attention is being devoted to the forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Tomorrow, the British Prime Minister is to meet FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President Francois Mitterrand, and certain observers are making the assumption that Thatcher plans to speak in Moscow on behalf of the Western European NATO partners.

## MOSCOW ASSAILS U.S. POSITION AT GENEVA TALKS

LD202227 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Viktor Levin commentary]

[Text] Today the fourth round of the Soviet-American talks between experts on the question of halting nuclear tests ended in Geneva. Viktor Levin, our commentator is at the microphone.

[Levin] I would not like it at all if my prophesies come true, but I am afraid that quite a few rounds of talks will still be needed before the way opens up to full-scale talks on a complete nuclear test ban. I believe that such a way will open up, but I cannot venture to say when it will happen.

The present position of the U.S. representatives at the talks does not inspire optimism. This fourth round, too, has shown that the U.S. side is not opting for an accord on the beginning of talks. One could, perhaps, foresee such a result. The persistent, if not to say stubborn, U.S. unwillingness to renounce nuclear tests is unfortunately demonstrated not only by the fact that the U.S. representatives are trying to avoid resolving the question of full-scale talks, but also by the continuance of the nuclear tests program.

The position of Washington so far has not been influenced in practical terms either by our unilateral moratorium on conducting nuclear tests or by the readiness of the Soviet Union to immediately stop nuclear testing on a reciprocal basis, which we had to resume because of the actions on the part of the United States. Yet on no account would I call the talks in Geneva futile.

It is not only that an imperfect peace is better than a conflict, and that having talks is likewise better than not having them. In my view, day by day, it is becoming less possible for the United States to evade a solution to the questions about beginning full-scale talks on a complete nuclear test ban. Yes, the United States is ignoring the unilateral moratorium of the Soviet Union. It also ignored the moratorium on its nuclear testing grounds.

But the United States cannot wipe out the political influence of the Soviet moratorium, nor can it shun the influence that our position of readiness to compromise, in order to attain the beginning of full-scale talks on a complete test ban, is having on peoples' minds. Have we not suggested that a certain quota of tests be established if serious talks begin? Since our approach to the problem of nuclear tests reflects our fundamental policy geared toward the consolidation of peace and ridding mankind of the threat of nuclear distruction, this policy is gaining increasingly wide support in the world.

So, it seems that the United States will hardly be able to endlessly avoid responding. This will not work. Life will force them.

## NUCLEAR WEAPONS TEST TALKS LACK 'SUBSTANCE'

LD212159 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1732 GMT 21 Mar 87

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Andrey Ptashnikov]

[Text] [Ptashnikov] During the past week in Geneva the fourth round of Soviet-U.S. talks on halting and banning nuclear weapons tests was held. Our delegation was led by Petrosyants, chairman of the State Committee on the Use of Atomic Energy, and the U.S. delegation was led by U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Barker. What was the characteristic feature of the latest round of talks? I am putting this question to Vladimir Dmitriyev, our correspondent in Switzerland.

[Dmitriyev] First, one should note that the representatives of the two countries were working for only a few days, from 16 to 20 March. Thus the latest round only went on for a very modest and insignificant time.

[Ptashnikov] But how was it from the viewpoint of substance?

[Dmitriyev] In regard to substance no headway has yet been made at this stage. The instructions that the U.S. delegation travelled to Washington for and obtained do not allow the delegation to work toward an accord. Indeed, it cannot be ruled out that the U.S. representatives have been directly instructed to protract the talks. After all, the United States is continuing to bank on going on with its nuclear testing program and on further improving its armaments within the framework of the so-called Strategic Defense Initiative. As for the Soviet Union, our country, as well-known, did not conduct nuclear tests for more than 1 1/2 years following its declared moratorium. But Washington did not cease testing.

Returning to your question as to the substance of the talks, I would like to recall that during the fourth round the Soviet delegation tabled a draft joint document setting out a common understanding of the aims of the talks and the program for them.

Here is what Comrade Petrosyants says about this:

[Begin Petrosyants recording] We proposed that we reach agreement on the beginning of full-scale negotiations having as their end goal the total banning of nuclear tests. This is really the main aim of our talks, that is to say, our aim -- the aim of the Soviet side and the Soviet delegation. For these full-scale negotiations we put the following issues on the negotiating table: first ratification of the Soviet-U.S. treaties of 1974 and 1976, that is to say, the so-called threshold treaties; second, the introduction of interim limitations on the number and yield of nuclear explosions; third, the drafting of an accord on a total ban on nuclear tests; and finally, fourth, the monitoring of both the conducting and the halting of nuclear explosions and reliable implementation of the agreement.

However, what we have put on the negotiating table is not yet being met with understanding by the U.S. delegation. They are insisting on there being a discussion at the talks first of all on improving the monitoring of the threshold treaties of 1974 and 1976, and that alone. We think this is not right. The task of the Soviet delegation is to achieve its end goal of a total halt to nuclear weapons tests. We are not against discussing with the Americans issues that are of interest to them. But naturally, if talks are being held, they need to be held on a level that is of interest to both sides. [end recording]

## WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD221930 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 22 Mar 87

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Vitaliy Ivanovich Kobysh, publicist; Professor Valentin Sergeyevich Zorin, political observer of Central Television and All-Union Radio; and Vladimir Yakovlevich Tsvetov, political observer of Central Television and All-Union radio]

[Text] [Zorin] Hello, Comrades! I should like to start our conversation by briefing you, colleagues and radio listeners, on the results of two opinion polls conducted in West Germany and Japan, and which seem to me to be interesting. In West Germany, 70 percent of those polled declared that in their opinion the Soviet Union, in putting forward its wide-ranging disarmament proposals, is the most serious in its aim to prevent war and to eliminating weapons of mass destruction. It is interesting that in this opinion poll only 9 percent of those polled think that the United States cares about guaranteeing peace and about disarmament.

A similar poll has been conducted in Japan; this sort of poll is carried out in Japan every spring. The question went as follows: Which country attracts you most? This year, twice as many of those polled included the Soviet Union as one of the attractive countries, compared with last year. Meanwhile, the number of those who previously considered the United States an attractive country declined 8 percent. We can thus see that a new political atmosphere is being created.

[Zorin] Why?

[Tsvetov] This is why.

[Zorin] Let's try and sort out what has happened and why this new political atmosphere is being established.

[Kobysh] You know, I would like now to go on to cite a few more facts and examples which will lead us to certain generalizations. This week there have been debates in the Bundestag in which Vogel made the following statement -- Vogel you know, is chairman of the SPD [Social Democratic Party of Germany] parliamentary faction. He said that the time has now come to continue the policy of relaxation of tension. The changes in the Soviet Union provide an extra opportunity for this. It is in our interest to make use of this opportunity to deepen economic cooperation, expand cultural exchange and step up contacts between people. We have nothing to fear in so doing, Vogel said; on the contrary, giving up the portrayal of the other side as an enemy and engaging in the peaceful competition of social systems will have a beneficial influence on observance of human rights and on the stabilization of the situation in Europe. This is interesting.

[Zorin] Yes.

[Kobysh] It also is interesting that the NATO press service has announced that a 3-day colloquium is to be held on the problems of the Soviet economy. A study will be made of the 12th 5-Year Plan and what it means for business and economic cooperation.

[Tsvetov] A change in the general atmosphere in the world is manifested in this change of attitude toward the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union is ceasing to appear as the evil empire in the consciousness of various strata of the population in Western countries.

Furthermore, these strata are ready to join the Soviet Union in coming out against the universal evil; that is, against the danger of war and nuclear weapons.

[Zorin] I should like us here to discuss the reasons for this change for the better which is taking place before our very eyes. First and foremost is the response to the whole series of the most important Soviet foreign policy initiatives, which are creating a new mood; and not just initiatives -- the 19-month Soviet moratorium when we exploded no nuclear devices and conducted no tests; and the declarations that at any moment we can prolong that moratorium as soon as the Americans take such a step and make such constructive proposals. All this has made a serious change in public opinion in the West and altered and broken down the sterotypes.

The processes taking place inside our country are also very influential. Not only our foreign policy actions, but also the process of restructuring, openness [glasnost], everything that excites you and me so much today, has a great influence on world policy and on the progress of the political process in the international arena. If one is talking about a positive influence, it must be said that since this process cannot be hushed up, the word glasnost, for instance, is now entering the international lexicon, just as the word sputnik did at one time. This cannot be hushed up or hidden from the world public, and, as a result, that image of the evil empire, as you said, which Western propaganda created year in, year out over a lengthy period of time, is being broken down. When the man in the street, brainwashed by the great propaganda machine, had the former image of the Soviet Union, it was easy to arouse fear of our country. Arousing fear means justifying military expenditure, the arms race, and so forth. Now a completely different image of the Soviet Union is emerging, and this has a positive effect.

[Tsvetov] Excuse me, Valentin Sergeyevich, I would just like to make two brief but important comments here. This change toward the Soviet Union, the increased liking for us, has not come about because we have betrayed our ideological positions; it is very important to underline that, on the contrary, everything we are doing now, both inside the Soviet Union and in the world arena, we are doing in order to strengthen socialism. The feelings of affinity we have aroused are dictated by the fact that we are doing this openly, that we are demonstrating a willingness and ability to compromise on the most serious foreign policy issues; that we have become more realistic in our assessments both of what is happening within our own country and of what is taking place beyond our borders. This arouses liking for us.

[Kobysh] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev spoke about this very pithily in his Kremlin speech to the participants of the forum "For a Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity." A little over a month has elapsed since this speech, but these words of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee explain a great deal. I shall remind you of them. One of the most weighty consequences of restructuring in the Soviet Union is the strengthening everywhere and by all possible means of trust in our society. This also strengthens our confidence in the possibility of introducing the necessary trust into the sphere of interstate and international relations. We can see this happening now.

[Tsvetov] There is also another aspect. Some people in the United States are trying to prove that the restructuring in our foreign policy and the restructuring within the country are the result of the U.S. policy of strength. Well, I think that this can evoke only an ironic smile, for no one has ever managed to intimidate us, nor will they ever do so. I would like to recall the words of Horace, who said that brute strength falls by its own weight. But if our strength is accompanied by wisdom in the approach to the most diverse matters, then this combination cannot fail, cannot but be victorious.

[Zorin] I should also like now to draw the attention of our radio listeners to the fact that the processes taking place in our country -- restructuring, acceleration and everything we are talking about and doing -- are also arousing very negative emotions in certain circles. The Japanese NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN, for instance, writes that the events taking place in the Soviet Union are a challenge to the West, and the paper articulates fears about the effect of these events on relations between the capitalist and socialist countries. The West German weekly VORWAERTS, dotting all the i's, declared in the last issue: It is not to be overlooked that by virtue of successful reforms, the scarecrow of Soviet totalitarianism will lose its persuasiveness. Only in this event will genuine competition between the systems begin; and politicians in the West will have to exert themselves in order to stand out in comparison with a country where there is no unemployment or impoverishment of the masses. This is said very frankly, and it explains a great deal in the negative reactions we come up against. It explains the fears leaders of the modern bourgeoisie have about the processes taking place in our country.

[Kobysh] It is interesting that these fears are now already spreading to the sphere and area where these circles in the West that you were talking about have always felt themselves, so to speak, to be in an absolutely sure and secured position; that is, human rights. It is interesting that they already have sensed that they are losing the initiative here and have started urgently and even feverishly to switch the emphasis from individual freedoms of citizens to the rights of nations as a whole, to self-determination. With increasing frequency the national question is raised. Speaking to advertisement business bosses recently, Charles Wick, director of the USIA, put forward the thesis that openness is a challenge to U.S. public diplomacy. The man is quite simply afraid of the processes taking place in our country.

[Zorin] It is on the whole understandable that Wick's department, under whose command the Voice of America and other propaganda organs are aimed at socialist countries, is now losing the very convenient and customary stances it has made use of. For example, the issues of economic difficulties and economic stagnation in the USSR have been whipped up in every way possible. Regrettably, these phenomena did take place and the party spoke frankly about them, but they were presented as something inherent in socialism. Now it was suddenly discovered that this is not so, and the habitual position of propagandists and Mr. Wick is collapsing. They also have lost the possibility of exploiting some other mistakes that took place in the past; for example, certain totally unjustified measures in the sphere of culture, when, say Vladimir Vysotskiy's name was exploited. They made use of the fact that certain persons here did not like his creative work, records with his songs were not released, and this was a subject of speculation by the Voice of America. Let us recall Pasternak when his novel, far from his best work, in my opinion...

[Tsvetov, interrupting] An awfully boring one, I think...

[Zorin, interrupting] Yes, not the best work by this major man of letters...

[Tsvetov, interrupting] A poet, I would say, a major poet.

[Zorin] Yes, it was praised to the skies. These phenomena were exploited, like the attempt to hold a discussion on trends in painting aided by bulldozers. Western propaganda has now lost all that. What presents to Mr. Wick were all these! I can imagine, Vitaliy Ivanovich, how sad he must be now when confronted with the problem: What to talk about? One can understand the concern of our foes over the processes that are taking place, not to mention the main thing: You see, they started saying that the time has now come to give up demogogy and get down to proving economic advantages in the competion with a country free of unemployment...

[Tsvetov, interrupting] and of large-scale poverty.

[Zorin] and of large-scale poverty.

[Tsvetov] You know what comes to mind in this connection? Wick and other U.S. and Western propagandists, being people capable of thinking, realize that eventually they will lose in the competition between the two systems, that a process has been initiated in our country which will eventually result in their defeat in the competition. An idea occurs to me: What if imperialism dares, at some stage, to take extreme measures to avoid this predictable defeat in the competition between the systems? What if this results, in the end, in imperialism taking a sharply aggressive position to save itself?

[Zorin] Well, possibly there are grounds for such misgivings, but one should not underestimate the positive processes of discovering the truth, the processes connected with the striving to avoid nuclear catastrophe which are talking place in major countries and which are gaining in influence on political development. I would like to direct our listeners' attention to yet another circumstance, to the fact that both the principledness and predictability of our policy are being displayed to the whole world. Let us have a look at the United States. Could one imagine what decision the White House will make tomorrow, in a month, or in a year? Could one foresee, with a certain degree of well-foundedness, the activity of the next president? And all this in a situation when the threat of nuclear death is hovering over the world. However, anyone who would take the trouble to acquaint him or herself with the plans set forth by the 27th congress, with the plans that have been developed and are now being implemented in the Soviet Union, comes to the conclusion that Soviet policy, including foreign policy, may be predicted. That policy may be forecast, and it inspires confidence. This is a very serious component related to the effect of the processes taking place in our country on the development of the international political process.

[Kobysh] Of course, anyone who can read and think simply must come to the conclusion that the Soviet people are programmed for peace, because we need a strong and stable peace to fulfill all we have mapped out in our programs extending into the coming millenium. That is why the formulation of the question on the predictability of our course and, regrettably, on the complete unpredictability of what has been happening on the other side is very correct, in my opinion. Probably, the most shocking fact of this kind would be the events surrounding the ABM Treaty. The treaty signed in 1972 is now subjected to broad interpretations, to some interpretations suitable to current bosses of the White House. Who gave them the right to make those interpretations? The treaty was signed to benefit decades, if not centuries, in the future, and what will remain of the treaty if each side starts giving it its own interpretation? What will remain of peace?

[Zorin] And what will remain not just of the treaty, but international law in general? As far back as in ancient Rome the principle of pacta sunt servanda -- treaties must be kept -- was formulated as the basis of all international law. If U.S. leaders may act in such an unpredictable manner, then not only are they attacking the most important document of our times, but, in fact, they are undermining international law as such.

[Tsvetov] Taking up your idea of the predictability of our foreign policy and, on the contrary, of the unpredictability -- hence, the dangerous character -- of U.S. policy, one could come to the following conclusion: The results of the opinion polls I have cited were obtained in Western Europe and Japan. I think this process is going to expand, and, in my opinion, the time is not far away when similar results could also be obtained in the United States.

When it happens in the United States -- and I believe that it will happen eventually -- then U.S. leaders will simply be powerless to take such a reactionary turn in their course that could cast a slur on or cross out efforts directed toward lessening tension, strengthening peace, and banning nuclear arms. That is why one can look to the future with fairly strong optimism.

[Zorin] The more so if we take into account that the latest events have been showing that not only negative phenomena have been taking place in the international arena; the things that are happening now in connection with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's 1 March proposal on removing the Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles from launch positions in Europe and the response to this proposal provide certain grounds for optimistic evaluations.

[Kobysh] Yes, this is the beginning of something weighty and serious. It is interesting that there is already a practical response to this serious dialogue that has been started. After talks with French President Mitterrand, Belgian Prime Minister Martens said that in light of the new Soviet proposals on liquidating nuclear medium-range missiles, Belgium has developed a procedure prohibiting the deployment of 32 U.S. missiles not yet installed in its territory. By this, according to Martens, a kind of moratorium is being introduced that is intended to contribute to the signing of the Soviet-U.S. agreement on liquidating nuclear missiles of this type. In other words, there are already some specific practical results of the proposal we have put forward.

[Zorin] But we cannot fail to see that certain, very influential forces in the United States are far from giving up their positions so easily; particularly in Washington a very serious struggle is mounting around this issue.

While being aware of positive components of the response to the Soviet proposal, we cannot underestimate the strength of opponents to these proposals as well as the fact that, evidently, time, patience, endurance, and great efforts will be needed to make this real step toward disarmament be on a grand scale.

[Tsvetov] Opponents of the Soviet proposal exist not only in the United States; they also exist, of course, in Western Europe. In my view their arguments against the Soviet proposal boil down to three points. First, the Soviet strategic systems that do not come under the agreement on medium-range nuclear missles are also capable of delivering a strike against the same targets in Western Europe. That's the first point. The second point is that Soviet shorter-range intermediate-range missiles will continue to be a threat to Western Europe. Finally, there remains the Soviet superiority in conventional armaments. But here there is just one thing that is being forgotten: For the Soviet Union to make a proposal on reducing and eliminating strategic weapons and shorter-range missiles -- and there are Soviet proposals on reducing conventional armaments [changes thought]; so in response to our proposal that medium-range missiles be eliminated in Europe, a kind of package is being put forward containing proposals of the greatest variety on extremely complicated disarmament problems. But when we offer a package of solutions, we are told that the West cannot accept a package. We remove one of the proposals from the package, we put it forward for discussion, and again they tell us: No, let's think about a package. The result is a kind of vicious circle. But it is not a vicious circle; it is a circle which has been set up by those who are opposed to nuclear disarmament and of whom -- as you have correctly said -- there are still quite a lot. What is it, then, that worries those opponents of the Soviet proposal on medium-range missiles?

I would like to draw your attention to an article in the U.S. BOSTON GLOBE newspaper. It reads as follows: Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Richard Perle, assistant to the secretary -- now, of course, as we know, he is the former assistant -- do not want to sign any agreement with the Soviet Union because a return of warm relations between the superpowers will undermine support for major military spending by the United States, support which is already weak, and which will undermine the development [sozdaniye] of a new generation of U.S. nuclear weapons. As you see, that is how it all can be explained quite simply.

[Zorin] I would like to draw our listeners' attention to the following circumstances which also have a bearing on what we have been talking about: I am referring to the very complex domestic political situation in Washington. Reagan finally gave a news conference this week for the first time in 4 months. Those organizing this news conference were counting on the President's being able to put an end at last to this scandalous Irangate-contras affair. Well, in the view of all leading observers the news conference, generally speaking, was not successful, and the President's position remains politically very vulnerable. More than that, I have the impression that his position is getting increasingly vulnerable. If, say, a month ago I had been asked whether impeachment were possible -- that is what happened in the case of Nixon [as heard] -- then I would definitely have answered: No, that's impossible; the U.S. ruling class cannot subject itself to such a costly exercise for a second time. But when I ask myself this question today, I can no longer say with the same conviction: No, impeachment is impossible. The external circumstances remain exactly the same. But the internal logic of the development of this scandal, which amounts to this, that more and more new circumstances are becoming known that seriously compromise both the administration and the President personally, are such that the situation might get out of control; today I would not take it upon myself to say with confidence that this crisis of the presidency cannot take on the most acute form.

[Kobysh] Valentin Sergeyevich, I am not inclined to think that Reagan might be subjected to the impeachment procedure. First of all, your own arguments remain valid, as far as I am concerned. I think that the U.S. ruling class, the forces which lead the largest country in the capitalist world, will not allow themselves such a shock again. There is another point which is quite complicated and quite difficlt. Because of the shortage of time, I cannot explain in great detail, but there are some circles in the United States which think in a very realistic way -- I would call them pragmatists -- and they proceed along the lines that Reagan in his present condition, a weakened Reagan, a Reagan disgraced by Irangate, may well be better than any U.S. President who follows him. This one might still do something good and positive, primarily in the area of international relations and in the area of contacts and talks with the Soviet Union. He might decide to sign some weighty agreement with us. Of course, in this regard we await with great interest the arrival here in April of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, and in general we are proceeding from the view that quite serious and businesslike discussions might take place leading to far-reaching consequences.

[Zorin] In all the circumstances under consideration one ought to bear in mind -- irrespective of whether the administration's position is getting stronger or more stable -- whether the skepticism of some of our listeners who express their views in letters, asking whether it is worth dealing with a president who is now so weakened, is not justified, because today what we are talking about is this: In the first place, we are talking about a situation in which one cannot afford to waste months and days, not to mention years; second, we are not talking about relations with some politician or other; we are talking about relations between states. In these interstate relations there are certain patterns. You mentioned the Shultz visit.

Naturally, when he travels he will have received some kind of mandate, not just from the President, but he will have received a mandate from some very influential circles in the United States. In my view, one of the most interesting processes taking place at the moment in the U.S. political arena is the process of the strengthening of the positions of -- you call them pragmatists -- realistically minded politicians. Just over a year ago their voices were scarcely heard; now they are playing a key role in the U.S. Congress. Their positions and their influence upon the foreign policy course are gaining strength, and under these conditions there is no foundation at all for a slackening of our efforts and thinking that one can just sit and wait without carrying out an active foreign policy of this kind.

[Tsvetov] Concluding our conversation today, I would like to say the following: Given that the Soviet domestic and foreign policy is exerting an enormous influence on changes in the political atmosphere in the world, making it more suitable for carrying out specific and substantial measures to reduce the threat of nuclear war breaking out, the situation nevertheless remains serious. This situation requires that great attention be given to the attempts by those in favor of a nuclear arms race to bring to naught the process that is leading toward the rebirth of detente. Nevertheless, changes on the international arena are obvious and they inspire confidence in the ultimate victory of common sense. On that we take our leave of you. All the very best.

## INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS ON MIDDLE EAST, HOSTAGES

LD191740 Moscow TASS in English 1539 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 19 TASS -- The participants in the session of the Bureau of the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ) Presidium, held in Moscow, expressed deep worry over the fate of three French journalists abducted in the Middle East, says a communique published here today. One of them, Jean-Paul Kauffman, was seized two years ago.

In the light of the decisions of the tenth IOJ Congress in Sofia, the Bureau issued a call to all journalists' organizations in that region to take all possible measures to free the journalists who do not have any relation to the charges levelled against them.

The IOJ Bureau expressed support for a demonstration in defence of the journalists' rights to be held in Paris on May 22. The march was sponsored by the national journalists' syndicate of the General Confederation of Labour [CGT].

We urge international professional organizations to join actively in the UNESCO-sponsored activities aimed at guaranteeing the safety of journalists who found themselves in a situation which imperils their lives, the authors of the document emphasize.

## MOSCOW MEDIA COMMENT ON REAGAN NEWS CONFERENCE

### Iran 'Scandal' Remains

LD201617 Moscow World Service in English 1410 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] In the United States, the political scandal caused by covert American arms shipments to Iran is far from being overcome. This becomes clear from the latest news conference given in Washington by President Reagan. Aleksandr Druzhinin comments:

The news conference also showed that the Reagan administration persists in viewing such matters of its foreign policy as interference in the affairs of other countries as totally justified. Washington officials began to assert long ago that weapons have been covertly sold to Iran allegedly for the purpose of freeing American hostages held in the Middle East. Now the White House has declared once again that the United States has the right to take any steps to insure its interests. And if it admissible to interfere in the affairs of Middle East and southwest Asian countries, why not intervene in Nicaragua? This kind of logic led to the transfer of profits derived from the arms sales to Iran to Washington's Nicaraguan hirelings, who seek to topple the lawful government in Managua. Was President Reagan aware of the shady machinations conducted secretly from the American public and bypassing Congress, by his closest aides, by the Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, and by the National Security Council?

This question gave rise to the greatest political passions in the Irangate scandal. Facts indicate that he was. The President himself denies this, but another aspect is more important: The reasons why Irangate became possible in the first place. And these reasons lurk in the very policy pursued by the United States, in a policy of neoglobalism that enables Washington to view the entire world as its own domain and to resort to any methods in the pursuit of its imperial ambitions. As long as the United States administration adheres to this kind of policy, American interference in the affairs of other countries is inevitable. Consequently, new scandals of the Irangate type are also possible.

### Zorin: Reagan 'Unconvincing'

LD201751 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1555 GMT 20 Mar 87

[From the "World Today" program, presented by Valentin Zorin]

[Text] A news conference by President Reagan has taken place in the White House. A routine event in Washington practice, it would seem. It turned into a sensation, nevertheless. The point is that for several months the President, seeking to avoid answering unpleasant questions connected with the Irangate-contra scandal, was in every way possible avoiding meetings with the press. The usually regular White House news conferences were not held. Things reached a strange stage: The President simulated laryngitis, loss of voice, in order not to reply to journalists' questions during chance contacts with them.

However, such tactics did not help and in the White House it was decided to embark on a news conference in order, as its organizers said, to close this matter.

Thorough preparations were made for the news conference. According to information that leaked out of the White House, during its preparations two protracted rehearsals were conducted with the President's assistants playing the journalists' role.

During the news conference, as was expected, the greater part of the questions related to the political scandal that is shaking the administration.

However, as virtually all U.S. commentators admit today, the President did not succeed in carrying out the task. He evaded penetrating questions, dismissing them with general phrases and even with references to the failure of his memory. The only thing Reagan was in the slightest degree clear about during the news conference was his statement that his administration is striving to move toward undermining the ABM Treaty in the name of implementing the notorious Star Wars program.

The President's unconvincing replies to the questions he was asked and his hesitating conduct are, in the opinion of U.S. observers, aggravating the already difficult situation in which the Washington administration has found itself.

## Evasion of 'Sharp Questions'

LD211619 Moscow TASS in English 1530 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 21 TASS -- Follows commentary by TASS political news analyst Sergey Kulik:

Commenting on the U.S. President's latest press conference, many Western mass media are drawing attention not so much to what he said as to his "good form" and "impressive manners".

When reading such commentaries, one cannot help thinking that Reagan is having now something like "second wind", since the times when the current chief executive earned his living by starring in Hollywood westerns.

Yet when one reads the transcript of Reagan's remarks, one can understand even clearer the real motives behind the journalists' interest not so much in the contents as the form of his press conference. It looks like many of those present at the press conference were ashamed for the President, for America which became visible from the remarks by the U.S. President.

Clearly wishing to evade the sharp and unpleasant questions from correspondents over the "Iran-contras" scandal, President Reagan made references to ancient history, got confused in it and went so far as to make statements, which can be described only as sacrilege.

One of the newsmen at the press conference reminded the President about his pronouncement that Nicaragua contras are, as he put it, a "moral equivalent of the founding fathers" of the United States. It might seem that after the crimes committed by the Nicaraguan contra terrorists against their own people, the U.S. President would not risk comparing them with Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and other great American figures of the past, who laid the foundation of democracy and human rights in the United States.

Yet President Reagan is by far less concerned about the high reputation of his great predecessors than the dishonesty of his puppets from among the contras. And therefore in an attempt to rehabilitate them, to justify the Irangate adventure and find a way to grant terrorists new millions of dollars, the President goes so far as to liken the contras to some "volunteers in the fight for democracy". He even equates them with the fighting men of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade -- the American internationalists, who battled during the years of the civil war in Spain on the side of the republicans against fascism.

Reagan is guided by immoral and anti-historical principles in his attempts to whitewash U.S. interference in the Angolan affairs.

The U.S. President was only requested for the appropriation of funds to Angola. This is no bloodshed, but only aid to the Angolan people, he alleged, thus, trying to claim that he knew nothing about the atrocities committed by the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] terrorists, in the same way as he was "unaware" of all the other crimes born of the Irangate millions of dollars.

The newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES said that when preparing for his press conference, Reagan staged in the White House something like a rehearsal. The President's close aides asked questions, Reagan answered, his advisers corrected him and prompted him how he should (?wiggle) out most effectively.

If Robert Brown, who recently visited Angola among a U.S. Congress delegation, were invited to participate in that rehearsal, Reagan would be sure to hear from him something that would enable him to tell the truth at least once.

At any rate, speaking in Luanda recently upon completion of his tour of that country, Robert Brown admitted that what he had seen in Angola had depressed him and revived in his memory the visit to Vietnam right after the U.S. aggression. There are as many orphans and as many people crippled by American bombs and missiles in that African country. He said that he was very much ashamed for what the USA is doing in Angola.

## LEVCHENKO COMMENTS ON SENATE VOTE ON CONTRA AID

LD191636 Moscow World Service in English 1410 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] According to reports from Washington, the Senate, after a 10-hour-long heated debate, rejected a draft resolution which was to block $40 million in military aid to the anti-Nicaraguan forces. Here is what Radio Moscow news analyst Leonid Levchenko writes:

The Senate gave way to pressure on the part of official Washington, which demanded those millions of dollars for conducting an undeclared war against Nicaragua through mercenary units. The upper house of the American Congress failed to take into consideration the fact that the House of Representatives decided to freeze military aid to the contras, that decision was supported also by many senators. It is noteworthy that a similar Senate decision was rejected by only four votes. During the hearings Senator Edward Kennedy said aid to the Nicaraguan contras was immoral and unlawful; and there are plenty of reasons for making such an assertion -- even one of the former leaders of the contras, Arturo Cruz, who broke off with them last week, described the organization operating against the Nicaraguan people as a clique of butchers having nothing in common with democracy.

Aid to the butchers is indeed immoral. The bandits are given weapons through the Central Intelligence Agency which they use to terrorize the civilian population of Nicaragua. They kill children, women and old men. They destroy houses, schools and food store houses.

From the point of view [passage indistinct] but from the point of view of the head of the Washington administration this is the struggle for freedom. So far, Washington has been conducting an undeclared war against Nicaragua, but it is already preparing for an intervention, and, as THE WASHINGTON TIMES says, the Reagan administration is considering seriously the question of breaking off diplomatic relations with Nicaragua. And that, in the opinion of the paper, would open the way to escalating the aggression against a sovereign country. The voting in the Senate has removed the last obstacle on the way of the administration using $40 million to continue the policy of interference in the affairs of Nicaragua. According to UPI, the money will begin to be put at the disposal of the CIA already on Friday, and then it will go to the anti-Nicaraguan mercenaries.

## PRAVDA: 'Pyrrhic Victory'

PM201525 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Gan report: "Truly a Pyrrhic Victory"]

[Text] Washington, 19 Mar -- Taking advantage of the vacillations and inconsistency of a number of senators, the Reagan administration has obtained a decision of the upper house of the U.S. Congress in favor of the appropriation of $40 million for military aid to the contra gangs.

By an insignificant majority -- 52 to 48 -- the legislators came out in favor of appropriating this sum, which was left over from last year's government request for $100 million.

The need for the vote arose because when the original White House request was approved it was decided to make available $60 million immediately, and $40 million after a second consideration. This "two-stage" resolution was dictated by the concern of the legislators, reflecting the unpopularity of the dirty war against the Nicaraguan people's government among the American public. The results of this vote indicate that the concern persists. The narrow views and interests of certain senators played into the hands of the administration, which undertook a very powerful campaign of pressure on the Congress. It was no accident that CBS Television noted that the White House "tried to prevent a vote of no confidence in its Central America policy." U.S. Vice President Bush arrived specially for the vote; under the Constitution he is president of the Senate.

Nominally, the supporters of the U.S. interventionist course in the region secured the victory, but the administration scarcely felt satisfied or relieved. The Senate debates were very heated. There was sharp criticism of the White House from both Democrats and Republicans. Senator L. Weicker (Republican, Connecticut), in particular, described the program of aid to the anti-Nicaraguan terrorists as a "dangerous military policy" which could ultimately lead to direct U.S. military interference in the region. Senator E. Kennedy and others pointed out that Washington's attempt to overthrow the Sandinists is a flagrant violation of international laws. "This policy is wrong from the moral viewpoint." [paragraph continues]

"It is wrong from the political viewpoint. It is wrong from the military viewpoint. The time has come to put an end to it once and for all," Kennedy stated. "The American people," he noted, "do not approve of supporting the contras."

Although demagoguery and political blackmail helped to ensure a favorable outcome for the administration, the results of the vote are assessed here as an unequivocal indication that Washington's next request for finance for the CIA-sponsored contras is hardly likely to be met. According to ABC Television, "even some Republicans who voted for the President's course today stated that they are doing so for the last time, unless the administration's policy changes radically." As R. Byrd, Democrat leader in the Senate, noted, "this vote is not a victory for the administration. It is an alarm bell warning that the Americans have serious doubts about the administration's policy on Nicaragua."

## TASS ON U.S. LINKING SOCIALIST STATES, DRUG TRADE

LD191905 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1440 GMT 19 Mar 87

["Myths and Facts About Drug Smuggling" -- TASS headline]

[Excerpt] Washington, 19 Mar (TASS) -- Washington keeps coming up with fabrications about a certain implication of socialist countries and those independent states which adhere to anti-imperialist policy, in the international drug trade. "The Heritage Foundation", that "think tank" of the right wing of the ruling Republican Party, has circulated a brochure in which the Soviet Union along with Cuba, Bulgaria, and Nicaragua are indiscriminately accused in abetting drug smuggling with the purpose of harming Western countries. It would be useless to look for proof for those inventions: They do not and cannot exist. Yet the professional smearers, who are trying to breed another lie about the governments that are not favored by Washington, care little about this.

The fabrications are also being concocted by official bodies within Reagan's administration itself. Inventions about Cuba, Bulgaria, and Nicaragua are puffed up in this month's report by the State Department called "The Strategy of the International Fight Against Drugs". Here is how the authors "prove" the implication of Cuba in drug smuggling: "Cuba lies on some of the main secret routes for smuggling drugs into United States. Flights over its territory continue (planes with narcotics) and there is proof the Cuban authorities are using their strategic position to promote the interests connected with narcotics". How are they promoting it? What proof? Those who make this up have nothing to say about this.

The facts clearly say that it is, first and foremost, Washington and its "allies" who are involved in the international trading in narcotic potions. It was this, in particular, which drew the attention of the investigators of the Technological Assessments Bureau of the U.S. Congress, which is not officially subordinate to the administration. Examining the real state of affairs, they came to the conclusion that the politicians, police, and judges, who are supporting the "kings of the drug trade" and sabotaging the fight against drug-smuggling, "are representatives of governments who are friendly toward the United States", and not only of governments. An investigation is now underway in the U.S. Congress into the involvement in the drug trade of the Nicaraguan contras who, for their very existence, are responsible to Washington." [passage omitted]

## NAVIGATION ACCORDS BRING PRC-USSR PEOPLES CLOSER

OW230146 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Article by station observer Petrov on Soviet-Chinese cooperation from "Current Events and Commentaries"]

[Text] Something more than good news was brought to the Soviet and Chinese inland navigation personnel last week. The regular meeting of the Joint Soviet-Chinese Boundary Rivers Navigation Committee closed after agreements were reached on most of the relevant issues.

Discussions were held in the Soviet Far East city of Blagoveshchensk on navigation of the boundary rivers Amur, Ussuri, and Argun from various aspects. The two sides agreed to launch massive efforts to maintain and repair the waterways. Completion of these efforts will improve the navigability of the rivers across the boundary. Rivers can separate as well as bring together the peoples of the two countries. Speaking in terms of the basins of the Soviet-Chinese boundary rivers, it can be pointed out with satisfaction that contacts between the residents on both banks of these boundary rivers have greatly increased recently. With the ever-growing border trade, goods have been continually transported along these rivers. Delegations from the border areas of the two countries have exchanged visits.

There was also another piece of news last week regarding the boundary rivers of the two countries. Soviet and Chinese experts held a working conference in Moscow in accordance with an agreement previously reached between the two governments to set up a Soviet-Chinese committee to take charge of drawing up a plan for the comprehensive utilization of the water resources in the boundary sections of the Argun and Amur Rivers. It was agreed, during discussions at that conference from 2 to 16 March, to work out a plan to carry out design and survey work, and conduct field investigations this summer. A protocol was signed pursuant to the results of the conference. Speaking in the Far East City of Vladivostok last summer, Soviet Leader Gorbachev said: We do not want the boundary River Amur to be seen as a water barrier. Let this great river become one linking the Chinese and the Soviet peoples in their efforts to exploit the rich resources and water conservation facilities there for their common benefit.

Dear friends, I think our two countries came slightly closer to this goal in the past week.

## WORLD TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON AUTUMN CPC CONGRESS

LD210035 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1555 GMT 20 Mar 87

[From "The World Today" program presented by Valentin Zorin]

[Text] Great attention in the world has been evoked by the report on the forthcoming convocation this autumn of the 13th Congress of the Communist Party of China [CPC]. According to political observers, the congress will endorse substantial changes in the country's political structure with a view to, as Deng Xiaoping stated, creating the conditions for the protracted and stable development of socialist modernization in the PRC.

## SHEVARDNADZE CONFERS WITH JAPANESE ENVOY 21 MAR

LD211101 Moscow TASS in English 1051 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 21 TASS -- Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, received today Yasue Katori, ambassador of Japan to the USSR, at his request.

During a conversation they analyzed a number of questions connected with Soviet-Japanese relations that were of mutual interest and touched upon some topical international problems.

## NAKASONE CALLS FOR STRENGTHENING MILITARY POWER

LD221409 Moscow TASS in English 1335 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo March 22 TASS -- Japan's Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has declared today for strengthening the Japanese-U.S. militaristic alliance and further building up the Japanese military power.

It is necessary, "while firmly adhering" to the system of the Japanese-American "security treaty", to build up the country's military potential, he said. Nakasone was addressing the graduates of the National Defence Academy in Yokosuka (Kanagawa Prefecture).

Nakasone tried, however, to "balance" his pronouncements for a broadening of militaristic preparations by speculation on "commitment" to the country's peaceful constitution and assurances that Japan would not become a big military power threatening other states. Yet, as the KYODO TSUSHIN news agency said, the prime minister did not utter a word that his government had already exceeded in the latest national budget the one percent of the gross national product limit on military spendings, to which all the preceding cabinets adhered throughout the past decade.

Nakasone also evaded other questions. But they were touched upon by Yuko Kurihara, chief of the National Defence Agency. Speaking at a naval school in Etajima (Hiroshima Prefecture) yesterday, the military department chief put forward the unfounded proposition of a "Soviet military menance" and stressed the "need" for a high level of Japan's military might.

The spendings in 1987 fiscal year on militaristic aims are known to total 3.5 trillion yen, which is 5.2 percent up on the figure of the preceding financial year. The astronomic sum of 18.4 trillion yen has been earmarked for the implementation of the current five-year military programme (1986-1990).

## U.S. ANTISUBMARINE PLANE CRASHES NEAR OKINAWA

LD230629 Mocow TASS in English 0617 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo March 23 TASS -- An antisubmarine aircraft, S-3-A, from the U.S. strike aircraft carrier Ranger crashed and sank in the East China Sea off Okinawa last Saturday. This was reported by the command of the U.S. Armed Forces in Japan here today. One crew member was reported dead and the other missing.

## VISIT BY DPRK'S HWANG CHANG-YOP ENDS 18 MAR

PM201519 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "At the Invitation of the CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, was in the Soviet Union 14 through 18 March at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

Hwang Chang-yop had meetings with Ye.K. Ligachev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and V.A. Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Hwang Chang-yop conveyed a personal message from Kim Il-song, general secretary of the WPK Central Committee, to M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. In the course of the talks, which took place in a warm, friendly atmosphere, questions of the further development of Soviet-Korean relations and international problems of mutual interest were discussed.

The DPRK guest familiarized himself with the work of the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences and had talks in Zagorsk CPSU Gorkom in Moscow Oblast and at the Biogen science and production complex.

Hwang Chang-yop left Moscow 18 March. He was seen off at the airport by V.A. Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and CPSU Central Committee senior officials, as well as Kwon Hui-kyong, DPRK ambassador to the USSR.

## VORONIN RECEIVED BY MPR'S BATMONH IN ULAANBAATAR

LD192116 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 19 Mar 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today Jambyn Batmonh received Comrade Voronin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Committee for Material and Technical Supply. Voronin is in Ulaanbaatar in connection with the session of the CEMA Committee for Cooperation in Material and Technical Supply, which is being held in the Mongolian capital. Questions of expanding bilateral cooperation in improving the organization of supplies and the provision of technical equipment for them were touched upon during the conversation.

## 19-20 MAR HURRICANE IN MONGOLIA CLAIMS CASUALTIES

LD220715 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0645 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 22 Mar (TASS) -- A hurricane of immense destructive force struck the territory of the Mongolian People's Republic on 19 and 20 March. There are casualties in a number of administrative divisions. Considerable material damage has been caused to many livestock farms. Emergency measures are being undertaken by the republic's central and local bodies to overcome the aftermath of the natural disaster.

## COMMENTARIES DERIDE U.S. ACTIONS IN DRA

### Kornilov: 'Subversive Actions'

LD201756 Moscow TASS in English 1602 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 20 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes:

Even new facts indicate that the national reconciliation policy announced by the Afghan leadership is being implemented successfully. Large-scale military operations have been discontinued in the territory of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA). More than 34,000 refugees have returned home, and about 10,000 members of former counter-revolutionary formations have taken the side of people's power. Talks on reconciliation and cooperation are being conducted with various parties and groups.

It is needless to prove that the more successful the national reconciliation policy is, the more prerequisites there are for a political settlement to the issue.

Such a prospect is being welcomed by all those who are interested in lasting peace on Afghan soil. But this prospect is obviously not to the liking of U.S. imperialist quarters which unleashed and continue the undeclared war against the sovereign DRA.

Those quarters' tactics are obvious: As soon as if only some headway begins to show at the Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva, they cast prudence to the winds with a view to aggravating the situation and to adding fuel to the hotbed of tension.

Is not this evidenced by Washington's endeavours to urge counter-revolutionary formations, which were formed and equipped on CIA's funds, on to new bandit actions?

U.S. appropriations for subversive actions against the DRA continuously grow. The Washington administration has just decided to provide the anti-government groups with 300 missiles which are already being used by the counter-revolutionaries.

An appropriate "propaganda support" has been given to this anti-Afghan policy.

Five years ago President Ronald Reagan had proclaimed March 21 to be a "day of Afghanistan", thereby taking an action which was obviously directed against the legitimate government of the DRA, and giving a signal for launching a slanderous anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet propaganda campaign.

At present the campaign not only goes on but gains in scope, too. A White House spokesman has publicly declared the course towards reconciliation in the DRA a futile affair while rightist Republican Senator Hubert Humphrey [name as received] maintains that the idea of forming a national reconciliation government is a dangerous one. Dangerous but to whom? Only to those who would like to keep the seat of tension at the southern border of the Soviet Union.

Distorting facts, the organisers of slanderous remarks about Afghanistan in every way urge Islamabad to support the Afghan counter-revolutionary extremists, although it is clear that a political settlement of the Afghanistan situation would also accord with the interests of Pakistan, for it would promote a solution to a number of complex internal political problems of that country, and the establishment of good-neighbourly mutually beneficial relations with the DRA.

Washington goes on spreading inventions that the stay of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in the DRA at the request of the Afghan Government is almost the "only obstacle" to a settlement.

"Such statements, which deliberately pass over in silence the fact of who and for what purpose launched the undeclared war against the DRA, are obviously designed to disinform the public", Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has told me in this connection.

"One may gather the impression that the authors of the statements did not hear at all about the Soviet principled stand, or about the important compromise proposals which the Afghan side had submitted at the current stage of the Geneva talks and which are being fully supported in Moscow.

"The Soviet Union is firmly for a settlement of the Afghanistan situation. A guaranteed termination and non-resumption of the interference from the outside in the country's internal affairs should become the key to a settlement.

"The sooner a settlement is achieved, the sooner the Soviet troops will be withdrawn".

The Afghan people are resolved to follow the chosen road and to build peaceful life in the sovereign country. This resolve is being supported by all those who cherish peace in Asia and throughout the world.

## TASS Hits 'Afghanistan Day'

LD211946 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1135 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Washington, 21 Mar (TASS) -- TASS correspondent Oleg Polyakovskiy reports: The U.S. Administration is resolved to do everything to obstruct a settlement in Afghanistan. There is no other way to interpret the statement by President Reagan on Friday, proclaiming 21 March as "Afghanistan Day."

Calling himself a "friend of the Afghan people", the head of the Washington administration confirmed his commitment to a course hostile to the interests of all Afghans, a course directed at continuing the bloodshed in this country, which is a direct result of interference by the United States and several of its allies in the internal affairs of the DRA.

National reconciliation, which the Kabul government is trying to achieve, is impossible, said the President, insofar as there can be no reconciliation with a "government where communists dominate". The Afghan people, Reagan said, appropriating for himself the right to speak on their behalf, "will never go along with it." No compromises are possible, he continued.

"Compromises with communists" on the whole sicken the current boss of the White House, whether at talks for arms control or on ways to find a settlement for conflicts in Central America, Africa, or Asia. Reagan supports an uncompromised struggle by the dushman for a victorious end, that is, the overthrow of a "government where communists dominate", whatever the cost -- all the more so when it does not cost the President himself a thing. The blood spilled in abundance on Afghan soil by the dushmans armed and financed by the United States flows far enough from American shores to stir American public opinion in the same way the war in Central America does and to evoke the same protests, the same impartial press attention.

The war in Afghanistan is, from the point of view of the White House, an ideal war. It is going a long way. It has, for the United States, the character of a "secret operation" for which allocations are hidden and, therefore, do not cause fervent debate in Congress or the press, as does aid to the contras. It also, according to the plans of Washington strategists, provides an opportunity to put "pressure" on the Soviet Union. It is no mere chance that the President did not fail to state in his proclamation declaring today "Afghanistan Day": "It is important to maintain a constantly increasing pressure on the Soviet Union." At the same time, he made groundless criticism of all the Soviet proposals for a negotiated settlement claiming that they "are aimed at deceiving international public opinion."

It is the Washington administration that is involved in deceiving public opinion when it announces itself as a friend of the Afghan people.

## ACADEMY OF SCIENCES DELEGATION VISITS INDIA

### Velikhov, Srinivasan Laud Ties

LD210026 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 20 Mar 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; statements by correspondent B. Levchenko, Academician Ye. P. Velikhov and M.R. Srinivasan, chairman of India's Nuclear Energy Commission on joint cooperation; all identified by screen captions; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] A delegation from the USSR Academy of Sciences is currently visiting India.

[Levchenko] The Indian Government attaches great importance to carrying out, jointly with Soviet scientific centers, theoretical and applied research in the most varied fields to work out and master advanced technologies. In the course of conversations with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the Soviet scientists expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to become broadly acquainted with India's scientific and technical achievements and for the warm and cordial reception extended to them on Indian soil.

[Velikhov] Since Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's visit we have, of course, regarded this cooperation with even greater interest, with greater hopes. We are cooperating in practically all areas, for example, electronic physics and solid-state/physics, possibilities in astrophysics and power engineering, magnetohydrodynamic generators. At the moment we are discussing matters relating to nuclear energy and thermonuclear synthesis, so the prospects are very good.

[Srinivasan] The Soviet Union has had great success in using the achievements of science and technology to raise people's level of well-being. We have a long road to travel in this area, and we hope that cooperation with the Soviet Union will bring the attainment of this goal nearer.

### 'Round Table' Held

LD211409 Moscow TASS in English 1327 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] New Delhi March 21 TASS -- Cooperation between Soviet and Indian scientists plays an important role in strengthening peace and developing friendly relations between the two nations and makes an important contribution to international cooperated efforts of scientists for the good of all mankind. This idea was expressed by participants in the "round table" of Soviet and Indian scientists which was held in the Indian capital today and which discussed questions of broadening cooperation between the Academies of Sciences of the USSR and India and conducting joint explosions in the nuclear power industry, materials science, nuclear physics and other areas. "Considerable expansion of contacts between Soviet and Indian research institutions will develop further Indian science and will help use major achievements of Soviet scientists for the good of the republic's social and economic development," said at the meeting Ajit Verma, director of the Indian National Physics Research Laboratory. Expansion of Soviet-Indian scientific cooperation, he pointed out, will enable the republic to reach frontiers of scientific and technical progress and use its achievements for further advance along the road of independent development.

## COMMENTARY CLAIMS U.S.-INDIAN 'TERRORIST' TIES

BK191323 Moscow in Hindi to India 1130 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Yiriy Illyin commentary]

[Text] New clues have been obtained in the assassination of the noted [former] Indian Army chief, General Vaidya. During the interrogation of the terrorist Mohinder Singh, many new facts came to light. He was arrested recently by Indian security forces while trying to supply a large consignment of arms and explosives to extremist criminals from Pakistan at the Indian border. The newspaper TIMES OF INDIA writes that according to Mohinder Singh the so-called International Sikh Students Federation is responsible for the assassination of the retired Indian Army chief. Four extremists killed him on instructions from this terrorist organization, which is under the protection of Western espionage agencies. The criminals fled India after committing the crime using foreged documents and took shelter in the United States, where people interested in the balkanization of India are protecting them.

At present, anti-Indian organizations like the (Nanhan Saheb Fund) under the leadership of G.S. Ghillon are operating in the United States with the permission of the U.S. Administration. The so-called national council of so-called Khalistan also operates there under the leadership of its self-proclaimed president G.S. Chuahan. Mercenaries are trained in camps set up by these organizations in the United States to carry out assassinations and sabotage. Frank Kemper, a CIA agent who took part in the dirty war against the Vietnamese, supervised such a camp in Alabama. Hooligans trained by him were among those plotting to assassinate Indian Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi during his official visit to the United States. The Indian Government has repeatedly said that such an attitude is inappropriate and demanded that the U.S. Government take steps to stop the anti-Indian activities of the extremist groups. The U.S. Administration, however, has given no constructive reply to any of India's legitimate claims.

It could be said after viewing all the facts that there are definite reasons for this. As Mohinder Singh said during his interrogation, Western countries are using various extremist groups to force India to deviate from its independent foreign policy.

## PARTY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR SRI LANKAN CP CONGRESS

PM201521 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Departure of Delegation"]

[Text] A CPSU delegation consisting of V.V. Bakatin (head of the delegation), member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of Kirov CPSU Obkom, and L.V. Khlebnikov, senior official of the CPSU Central Committee International Section, left Moscow for Colombo 18 March to take part in the Eight Communist Party of Sri Lanka Congress.

### Central Committee Sends Message

LD211642 Moscow TASS in English 1554 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 21 TASS -- The CPSU Central Committee has sent a message of greeting to the 13th congress of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka. It says that the congress of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka is being held in a complicated international situation. The fundamental task facing humanity -- to save the world from a nuclear catastrophe -- today is more urgent than ever.

The CPSU believes that resolute joint actions of all the peace-minded forces are needed to disrupting [as received] the sinister plans of the aggressive imperialist circles, toward off the threat of nuclear extermination.

Soviet Communists highly appreciate the bonds of friendship and solidarity between the CPSU and the Communist Party of Sri Lanka that have passed a test of time, as well as the contribution made by the Communist Party of Sri lanka to the development of friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries.

### Congress Opens 22 Mar

LD221002 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0518 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Colombo, Mar 22 (TASS) -- The 13th congress of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka opened here today. More than 500 delegates are taking part in the congress. Delegations of fraternal parties are also attending it. They include a CPSU delegation led by V.V. Bakatin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Kirov obkom. K.P. Silva, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka, delivered the political report of the party's Central Committee. "Our congress takes place in a period of a complex international situation. The communists of Sri Lanka highly appraise the Soviet Union's resolute struggle for a world without nuclear arms, for the survival of humanity," he said. "The delegates of the forum are to endorse the new edition of the Communist Party's program. The communists of Sri Lanka play an important role in the struggle of the working people of the country for the consolidation of Sri Lanka's political independence and in the effort to popularize ideas of scientific communism," K.P. Silva said.

## GROMYKO HONORS OUTGOING VIETNAMESE ENVOY

### Exchanges Speeches at Dinner

PM201651 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Order of Friendship of the Peoples for the Vietnamese Ambassador"]

[Text] In the Kremlin 17 March A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, presented the Order of Friendship of the Peoples to Dinh Nho Liem, SRV ambassador to the USSR, who is ending his work in the USSR and returning home.

At the award presentation A.A. Gromyko said:

To a certain extent I experience contradictory feelings: On the one hand, we are, as it were, saying "au revoir" to each other, because you are leaving; on the other hand, I am presenting you with the Soviet Order of Friendship of the Peoples as a sign of our friendship with your country and your leadership and in recognition of your personal services in the post of ambassador.

It seems to me that you must be inwardly satisfied, because, during the period that you have been fulfilling the functions of ambassador to the Soviet Union, our relations have been still further enriched and still further strengthened. This is incontestable.

I wish particularly to emphasize the thought that relations between our countries have well stood the test of time -- both during the difficult time of the Vietnamese people's struggle against the aggressor, when American imperialism unleashed war against fraternal Vietnam, and under peaceful conditions, when your people, after defeating the aggressor, embarked on the path to rehabilitate and develop the economy and enhance the people's well-being.

We well remember all that. This is why it is possible to state confidently that our relations are being enriched and are developing progressively.

Of course, our common friends can only rejoice at and applaud this. But ill-wishers, of course, are not sympathetic to the fact that our relations are strengthening. This most probably proves that we are on the right road.

I would like to go on to emphasize that we have a broad program of a struggle for peace in Asia and in the Pacific region. We know that the program advanced by the Soviet Union in M.S. Gorbachev's Vladivostok speech is fully shared by the Vietnamese leadership, as well as by the leadership and peoples of other friendly states in Southeast Asia -- Cambodia and Laos.

So we tell you today that we will wage the struggle to implement the Asian security program. This struggle accords with the interests of all peoples and all states. We voice satisfaction that we are marching in the same column as you in the struggle for security in the vast and important Asia and Pacific region.

Finally, it must be emphasized that we also march together with you on questions of global politics. There is no need now to remind you of specific Soviet proposals and positions. They are known to the whole world.

I wish to assure the Vietnamese leadership that the Soviet Union will continue to pursue firmly and confidently a policy of peace and friendship among the peoples. This applies to all parts of the world. You are familiar with our proposals concerning the elimination of medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe.

They stem from our general course, including in internal affairs. We are doing everything to strengthen the country's economy and are waging a struggle on a wide front for restructuring in all economic and social life. You know this well.

We attach tremendous significance to the question of cadres. Our course, in internal affairs there is peaceful development, only peaceful development. In this respect, we march in the same rank as the fraternal Warsaw Pact countries and other socialist states.

We are absolutely convinced -- and we have never lost this conviction -- that the peoples do not want war. Therefore, we look with confidence and optimism to the future and feel the support of all peoples -- both our own and others. The world's peoples do not need war. They need peace, and peace alone.

We evaluate positively your desire to maintain good relations with China, Thailand, and other neighboring states. You expressed your viewpoint on these questions to representatives of the Soviet leadership and, in particular, to Comrade Ye.K. Ligachev and Comrade E.A. Shevardnadze, who recently visited your country. On this issue, too, you can always be sure of our support [vy vsegda mozhete chuvstvovat, kak govoryat, nash lokot].

In a reply speech the Vietnamese ambassador declared:

Permit me to express sincere and profound gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the government and people of the Soviet Union for the high assessment of my modest work in strengthening friendship and all-around cooperation between our countries.

My stay as Vietnam's ambassador in the Soviet Union -- the country of the October Revolution and the great Lenin's motherland -- is for me the most memorable period in my life. During this time I have witnessed great events and profound changes in the Land of the Soviets.

We note with great satisfaction that relations between Vietnam and the Soviet Union have entered a qualitatively new stage in the spirit of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 6th Communist Party of Vietnam Congress and the accords between our countries' leaders. We are now implementing measures to enhance the efficiency of Vietnamese-Soviet cooperation.

The Communist Party of Vietnam, the government, and the Vietnamese people express profound gratitude to the Soviet Union for the strong support and great assistance given to the Vietnamese people's revolutionary cause.

In the coming years, wherever I am and whatever my post, I will make every effort to ensure that friendship and cooperation between our countries become still stronger.

Permit me to wish the Soviet people great successes in strengthening socialism and in the struggle for peace.

The award presentation was attended by T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; M.N. Smirnovskiy, deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee section; I.A. Rogachev, USSR deputy foreign minister; staffers of the SRV Embassy in the USSR, and other officials.

After the order was presented, A.A. Gromyko and Dinh Nho Liem held friendly talks.

### Envoy Meets Ligachev, Medvedev

LD202358 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 20 Mar 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Comrade Ligachev today received Dinh Nho Liem, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee [CPV] and ambassador of the SRV to the USSR, in connection with his final departure for home. The conversation, which passed in a warm and comradely atmosphere, touched upon matters relating to the further development of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the CPSU and the CPV and between the USSR and Vietnam, as well as upon certain international issues. The SRV ambassador was also received by Comrade Medvedev. A friendly conversation was held in the course of which there was a discussion of issues of mutual interest.

## BIRYUKOVA, CPV SECRETARY HOLD TALKS IN HANOI

LD192132 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 19 Mar 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV, today received a CPSU delegation headed by Comrade Biryukova. During the conversation questions of extending all-round ties between the Soviet Union and Vietnam in the light of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 6th CPV Congress were examined. It was emphasized that raising the effectiveness of Soviet-Vietnamese economic and scientific-technical cooperation on the way to the transition to new, progressive forms was one of the most important tasks at the present stage. In this connection, the great opportunities for expanding bilateral cooperation in the field of light industry and consumer goods production were pointed out. The meeting was held in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship and complete mutual understanding.

### Visit Ends

LD231022 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] A CPSU delegation led by Comrade Biryukova ended a visit to Vietnam today. Matters relating to deepening all-round ties, deriving from the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 6th Communist Party of Vietnam Congress, were discussed during meetings and conversations. There was also discussion of new and progressive forms of economic and scientific and technical cooperation. Attention was drawn in particular to the great opportunities for expanding contacts between the two countries in light industry and consumer goods production.

The delegation left Ho Chi Minh City for home today.

## MOSCOW NOTES CSSR SUPPORT FOR SOVIET REFORMS

LD202355 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Vladimir Pasko commentary]

[Text] As has already been reported, the CPCZ Central Committee plenum held in Prague adopted a decision expressing a high opinion of the revolutionary contribution of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum in resolving key tasks of accelerating the development of socialist society. Over to commentator Vladimir Pasko:

[Pasko] This decision is an unequivocal answer to those whose politics are founded on the search for disagreement among the socialist countries. Clearly frightened by the colossal world attention to the process of restructuring in our country, public figures of this kind spread fabrications that our closest allies do not support the process taking place in our country and that there is almost a schism in the socialist community. Soviet-Czechoslovak relations also have become the object of these fabrications. The West German weekly VORWAERTS, the official organ of the Social Democratic Party, recently revealed the whole truth about these insinuations. Noting that many Western commentators are clearly worried by the prospect of the success of the Soviet reforms, the weekly wrote in 18 March: It is difficult to throw off the suspicion that it is not so much the Soviet Union that is important for these commentators, but the socialist tendencies in the rest of the world. It cannot be disregarded, continues VORWAERTS in explaining its statement, that thanks to successful reforms the scarecrow of Soviet totalitarianism will lose its persuasiveness. Only in this way will genuine competition between the systems start, and Western political figures will have to exert themselves to stand up to the competition with a country where there is no unemployment and no impoverishment of the masses.

An additional conclusion drawn by the magazine could also have come from the words of Charles Wick, director of USIA, the main propaganda center of the United States, who stated on 13 March: If we lose the war of ideas, we could put under threat the spirit of the Free World, its existence today and the prospect of future security.

But to frighten people with Soviet totalitarianism is more than a war of ideas; it is subversive propaganda. Nobody intends to thrust the CPSU restolutions on Czechoslovakia, said Comrade Husak at the Prague plenum. But everything that can help us in implementing the rough draft of the 17th party congress will be taken into account and used as applicable to our conditions. We have learned from Soviet Communists during the entire course of CSSR history; we will use their experience even more now. In precisely this way other fraternal parties also approach our resolutions. Incidentally, in precisely this way we also approach in our appraisals the events taking place in socialist countries. As was stressed at the 27th CPSU Congress, a solicitous and respectful attitude to each other's experience and its application in practice is the enormous resource of the socialist world.

## PRAVDA ON CURRENT POLISH ECONOMIC, POLITICAL SCENE

PM191141 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[O. Losoto Warsaw dispatch: "Reflections of Change" under the rubric "Poland Today"]

[Text] The process of change, reform, and acceleration of socioeconomic development determines the face of Poland today. Despite all the diversity, multiformity, and, at times, the contradictory nature of the events taking place here, the objective observer cannot fail to notice that the country has begun 1987 by making visible progress in the development of its economy, science, and culture.

In the majority of cases, the tasks set in 1986 have been fulfilled and, in many cases, overfulfilled. According to figures provided by the Main Statistical Administration, the national income rose by approximately 5 percent last year. This is higher than planned. Virtually all growth is the result of increased labor productivity. The harvest yield of basic grain crops has increased and planned targets for meat procurement have been exceeded.

The plans for 1987 and for the 5-year period as a whole are oriented toward further improving the economic management mechanism and increasing the efficiency of the national economy as a whole. The state budget has been balanced this year -- the first time in the last 6 years.

At the same time, the process of transformations and restoration of the economic balance is coming up against certain difficulties. This was discussed, for example, at a recent session of the Polish Sejm at which questions were raised regarding the sociopolitical and economic situation in the country and government in 1987.

Slow growth in exports to capitalist countries to offset increasing imports is one of the difficulties here. The balance in the domestic market is being upset by high monetary income in excess of the plan. Inflation is still rising. In addition to higher labor productivity and reduced consumption of energy and materials in production, negative phenomena are also apparent: for example, waste of work time, interruptions in cooperative deliveries, poor quality in some commodities, excessive wage increases, and rising prices. It goes without saying that one of the most important and difficult economic problems from a social viewpoint is the level and structure of prices. Friends note that the present price system does not contribute to improvement in the supply and demand structure and does not have sufficient influence on the task of reducing the consumption of raw and other materials and energy.

The public's increased sensitivity to any price fluctuation is understandable. However, the process of setting the national economy to rights and restoring the economic balance requires precise regulation of wage increases and price fluctuations. What has happened in the past year? Delays with implementing the program to change retail prices, as noted at the Polish Sejm session, have resulted in a rapid increase -- in excess of the plan -- in subsidies for consumer goods and services to the tune of approximately Z220 billion, thereby exceeding the annual budget target by 24 percent.

The increase in prices envisaged in the current year's national economic plan will make it possible to restrict the subsidies which are the greatest burden on the state budget, which swallow up almost one-third of all expenditure, and which make changes in the demand structure desirable. The prices of commodities and services, for which the largest subsidies are allocated, will rise first and foremost.

At the same time, taking social interests into account, the government will offset the rise in the cost of living with a corresponding rise in the population's income and further development of the social security system.

The Polish public is greatly interested in the second stage of the economic reform, known here as the "acceleration option." What is it?

I must immediately point out that this is no new reform but the logical development of current reform and an attempt to increase the effectiveness of its principles and mechanisms and to intensify the qualitative factors of development. The emphasis is being placed on improving central planning, developing enterprises' independence and economic activeness, increasing responsibility for work results, and strengthening self-management in collectives.

Special attention is demanded to resolve four complex problems. First, the task is to remove the mechanisms causing inflation and create the conditions for firmly linking growth in income with work results. Second, it must be ensured that the national economy is run on a rational basis, the so-called "sole producers" are removed, and unprofitable enterprises scrapped. Third, the influence of economic mechanisms on structural changes in the national economy must be enhanced. Fourth, there must be a radical increase in Poland's exports, and Poland must take an active part in the processes of multilateral cooperation within CEMA, and there must be a bold restructuring of its mechanisms.

Poland bases its plans for change on close, extensive cooperation with fraternal socialist countries and benefits by their experience. Use of the team system of labor organization that is broadly employed in the Soviet Union has had considerable effect, for example.

When it discussed the team system, the PZPR Central Committee Politburo recommended that the process of making this effective form of labor organization widespread be decisively expedited.

The interests of the program to accelerate the country's socioeconomic development, outlined by the 10th PZPR Congress, are also served by strengthening direct links between Polish and Soviet labor collectives and setting up joint enterprises and science-and-production and design bureaus.

A vast amount of work to resolve the tasks is done by the PZPR -- the leading, organizing force of Polish society. Preparations are now underway for the next Central Committee plenum, which will devote its attention to the tasks of party organizations in fulfilling the congress decisions. The press has published the PZPR Central Committee Politburo theses "To Enhance the Role of Primary Party Organizations in the Sociopolitical and Economic Life of the Country."

Never before has the primary party organization been the subject of a Central Committee plenum, TRYBUNA LUDU wrote in connection with the start of the discussion on the politburo theses. Party organizations are giving their reports on the issues and tasks formulated in this document, trying to take a self-critical view of their activity. [paragraph continues]

It is important, the newspaper notes, that the conclusions drawn during this campaign not only serve the task of preparing for the Central Committee plenum but also contribute to an improvement in the work style and methods of primary organizations.

Democratization processes are intensifying in Poland today. Broad public circles are becoming more active. You can see the effect of the new democratic mechanisms. The formation of a consultative council under the chairmanship of the Polish Council of State has aroused a broad public response, for example. This council is made up of people with different views who represent a broad spectrum of public opinion, including people who had avoided sociopolitical activity in Poland until now. The council will discuss problems requiring a decision at state level. The increased militancy of the revived Polish trade unions to protect working people and their interests also deserves a mention.

The preparation of legislation on a public referendum and consultations is underway. It will promote the further practical implementation of socialist democracy and expansion of the forms of direct participation by citizens in the management of the state.

Poland recently saw the conclusion of a broad public consultation on the plan to set up a Polish institute for the public protection of civil rights, which was put forward by the Polish Council of State and the Executive Committee fo the Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth (PRON) National Council.

"The majority of those who took part in the 2-month discussion spoke in favor of forming this kind of institute," Jerzy Jaskiernia, general secretary of the PRON National Council, said at a meeting with journalists. "It is proposed that a public protector of civil rights approved by the Sejm at the proposal of the PRON and will be answerable only to the Sejm. He must be independent of all other state organs. A resolution by the PRON National Council Executive Committee states that any action or refusal by state administrative organs or public organizations and institutions under them in cases where civil rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Polish Constitution and Polish law are limited in any way could constitute grounds for appealing to a civil rights protector. The public protector of civil rights is not bound to protect people against the state, which is there to serve them, but against bureaucratic distortion."

...Poland today is living in the rhythm of change and the acceleration of sociopolitical and economic processes. The documents of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum have aroused exceptional interest here. The questions of restructuring, acceleration, openness, and deepening democracy are being widely discussed by the public.

Despite the complexity of the problems being resolved and the diversity of approaches and solutions, Poland is making its contributions to the great cause of socialist renewal.

## FRENCH CLAIMS OF SPACE RESEARCH SPYING DISMISSED

LD211036 Moscow World Service in English 1000 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] The Soviet Union has flatly dismissed the allegations that it had ties with the group of persons arrested on charges of collecting classified information on French space technology. The Soviet Embassy in Paris presented a note to the French Foreign Ministry saying the allegation that the Soviet Union was involved in the affair do harm to the development of bilateral relations and are an attempt to tarnish mutually-beneficial cooperation between the two nations, particularly in the area of peaceful space research. In 1982, the Soviet Union and France carried out a joint space mission. Currently preparations are in process for another joint space mission.

### 'Anti-Soviet Slander Explosion'

LD221814 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 22 Mar 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast"]

[Text] An anti-Soviet fraud in France. Our Paris correpondent Anatoliy Potapov takes up the story:

[Potapov] Big headlines scream from the pages of the right-wing Paris press: They're stealing missiles from Ariane; Ariane under the gaze of Moscow; KGB web; Soviet espionage. What a gabble of newspaper sensation!

What is going on? In Normandy a group of French engineers have been arrested who, according to the counterespionage service, apparently have been engaged in collecting information on the engine of the French Ariane missile. No details, elaborations, or facts are reported. It is only known that the wife of one of the engineers had previously lived in the Soviet Union. Ah so! For those who go in for regular anti-Soviet frauds this is sufficient. That means that if there is an Eastern connection, then it must be the hand of Moscow. As they say, the whole works gets underway -- irresponsible fabrications on television and radio and in the press, literally an explosion of anti-Soviet slander.

On four occasions the Ariane missile couldn't get into space. Who is to blame? The Soviet Union! One of the leaders of the French space center said that the missile failures are in no way connected with any sort of sabotage, but the right-wing LE FIGARO couldn't care less; it doesn't matter -- the hand of Moscow is to blame.

Who is behind this poisoned anti-Soviet injection given to French public opinion? Who stands to gain from this disinformation? There is currently in France enormous interest in the Soviet Union, in the changes in Soviet society. Sympathy for our country is growing. To put up barriers to these, to whip up mistrust and hatred is the aim of pro-American, pro-NATO circles. The Soviet proposal for the elimination of U.S. and Soviet medium-range missiles in Europe is enjoying great success. This provokes irritation among those who are pressing here for the American nuclear umbrella.

The press has reported that a visit by the French prime minister to the Soviet Union, perhaps in the near future, is not to be ruled out. That means that the atmosphere of good relations between the Soviet Union and France has to be poisoned.

A joint Soviet-French space flight is not too far off. That means that a shadow has to be cast over cooperation -- peaceful cooperation -- in space. These are the underlying causes of the events.

The Soviet embassy in France has made a resolute protest against these crude fabrications against the Soviet Union. There is no doubt that this further fraud will meet with a rebuff from those in France who really value stable cooperation between our two peoples.

## REPORTAGE ON WEINBERGER SPAIN, TURKEY VISITS

### 'Fruitless' Talks, Azores Visit

LD220244 Moscow in Portuguese to Portugal 2100 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Following fruitless talks in Madrid about the future of the Pentagon's military bases in Spain, and after his trip to Turkey, U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger stopped over in the Azores. Yuriy Konstantinov writes:

According to the Spanish news agency EFE, at the Lajes base the head of the Pentagon received a warm welcome. No wonder! The head of the Pentagon had arrived at his military base and not at any other. Here, as is known, the Americans give orders as if they were at home. It was said that Weinberger's visit was purely technical, but the 2 hours that the visit lasted was enough time for the defense secretary to inspect how the modernization of this extremely important U.S. military base is progressing and to say, at a brief news conference, that things at the Lajes base are running very well.

The whistle-stop visit by the head of the Pentagon to the Lajes base is further proof of the great importance placed on this base by Washington. The Pentagon invests millions of dollars in the (?reequipment) of the base and considers it as a point of transfer for the Rapid Deployment Forces. It also is known that there are secret articles of the bilateral agreement about the Lajes base that provide for the deployment of nuclear weapons on the Azorean archipelago, and more specifically on this base.

The Portuguese Government indeed does not have control over what types of weapons go through Lajes base or to which countries the Americans are sending them from the base. Only recently did the use of the base for the U.S. shipment of arms to Iran and to the Nicaraguan contras become known.

On leaving the base, Caspar Weinberger thanked the representatives of the Azores government for his hospitality. In our opinion this thanks could equally be directed at the Portuguese Government, for in its foreign policy it favors Washington, gladly allows Portuguese territory to be used for Pentagon military bases, and actively participates in U.S. militaristic actions. For such behavior, the Social Democratic government has once more deserved praise from Caspar Weinberger and from other high-ranking U.S. officials.

Thus, after having caused some irritation in Spain, the U.S. defense secretary made himself at home in the hospitable Lajes base.

## IZVESTIYA on Spanish Base Talks

PM191243 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent V. Vernikov dispatch: "C. Weinberger's Verbal Maneuvers"]

[Text] Madrid -- Local political commentators were awaiting C. Weinberger's arrival in Madrid with a certain suppressed feeling of revenge. If the assessments of the state of and prospects for the Spanish-American talks on bases, which had come from across the ocean and whose authorship was ascribed to him, had been confirmed, there would have been scope for commentaries on the Spaniards' vain hopes of securing a reduction in the American presence in the country! But "Cap the Knife" did not cut loose, thereby greatly disappointing them.

This certainly does not mean he has changed his tough stance and agreed to the Spanish side's demand for the removal of 72 American F-16 fighters from the air base at Torrejon and of refueling aircraft from the base at Zaragoza. No, he was simply calmness and restraint itself, not a single superfluous word even at the press conference, and just general words about the substance of the talks with F. Gonzalez, the head of government.

Officially the purpose of his visit was to exchange opinions on problems of the West's defense capability, bilateral military cooperation, and even the Soviet-American talks on reducing medium-range missiles in Europe. "I did not bring any new proposals on the question of bases," he declared, "and that was not my task, although we did, of course, speak on that subject. Bases in Spain are vitally necessary to the United States, and I do not think that we will be unable to reach agreement." There really is nothing new in these words -- this is the well known U.S. stand at the Spanish-American talks, which is categorically rejected by Madrid, which is not prepared to concede on anything this time.

The new aspect, so local newspapers maintain, lay elsewhere: C. Weinberger carefully attempted to find and, if it should prove possible, even create cracks and contradictions in the approach to reducing the American presence in the country between the Spanish Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry and between the executive and the legislative power. Here very different options were played through: ranging from the redeployment of aircraft from Torrejon to another base located in the town of Moron, not far from Seville, to promises to buy more Spanish weapons and military equipment and to organize its joint production. Nevertheless, to judge from a statement by the Spanish defense minister at the end of C. Weinberger's visit, "We failed to unblock the next round of talks starting in Washington 2 April, we were unable to change each other's minds, and our intention remains unchanged."

Wishing in turn to confirm the immutability of the American approach to the problem, the Pentagon chief rejected the claim that the United States is supposedly thinking of transferring its bases from Spanish territory to Morocco or Portugal. "We need them here," he said, "to cover NATO's southern flank and the security of Spain itself." Trying to impose his will on the Spanish Government, C. Weinberger even resorted, so newspapers claim, to such a dubious argument as "the weakening of the West's defense might in connection with a possible reduction in medium-range missiles in Europe," but that did not work either.

The newspaper EL PAIS points out in this morning's edition that the United States, in an attempt to secure at any price a softening of the Spanish demands for the American bases to be removed, will continue to act according to the "carrot and stick" principle, that is to say the cake and the ship. [paragraph continues]

The magazine INTERVIU believes that "if we concede now and display just one gesture of weakness before American economic threats, we will never again rid ourselves of unwelcome guests."

## KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on Visits

PM201321 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[V. Pustov "Military-Political Commentary": "From Imperial Positions"]

[Text] U.S. Defense Secretary C. Weinberger's recent visit to Turkey took place under somewhat unusual conditions. His arrival in Ankara was preceded by a trip to Madrid, which he left empty-handed, as they say. The talks with Spanish representatives on the future of the U.S. military bases on the Iberian peninsula took place under signs of serious differences and in an atmosphere of anti-U.S. demonstrations. Tens of thousands of Spaniards gathered at the U.S. Air Force base in Torrejon de Ardoz shouting slogans: "American bases -- out!" "No to Spain's membership in NATO!" "Down with nuclear weapons!" But the United States -- and this was reaffirmed by Weinberger's visit -- is obstinately refusing to reduce its military presence in Spain.

Observers also have drawn attention to the fact that Weinberger arrived in Turkey at a time when Washington's relations with Athens have been exacerbated. Greece refused to receive the Pentagon chief and canceled the U.S. visit of its national defense minister.

Matters were different in Ankara. There was no question there of whether or not to have U.S. bases. The U.S.-Turkish agreement on cooperation in the defense and economic fields was recently extended in Washington to 1990. Under the agreement, in exchange for U.S. military and economic aid the United States will maintain 60 bases and other military establishments on Turkish soil. Special importance is attached to these establishments inasmuch as Turkey's territory is seen by the Pentagon as a bridgehead for military operations against the USSR and the socialist countries of the Balkan peninsula and as a transit base for sending interventionist rapid deployment forces to the Near East, which has been declared a "zone of vital interests" for the United States.

The possible results of Weinberger's discussions with Turkish representatives of questions connected with the modernization and use of U.S. bases and other military establishments are causing the most serious concern among the Turkish public. According to the newspaper GUNAYDIN, at the end of last year there were nearly 500 nuclear warheads in Turkey with their delivery vehicles -- Honest John and Nike-Hercules missiles, F-104 Starfighter and F-4 Phantom aircraft, and 203.2 mm and 155 mm guns. Acting from imperial positions, the Pentagon is seeking to deploy additionally in Turkey long-range Pershing-1 and Lance missiles and to replace obsolete aircraft with the more sophisticated F-16 fighter bombers.

The Turkish public also links the United States' present militarist activity in Turkey with its military preparations in the Near and Middle East. According to the newspaper MILLIYET, U.S. radar stations at the Pirinclik base (in the Diyarbakir region) are now targeted on the Near East region. Describing the situation which has taken shape there, the newspaper stresses that "the United States is keeping its finger on the trigger."

The recent arrival of U.S. F-111 and F-16 fighter-bombers based in Britain and Spain at the Incirlik base (near Adana) and the holding of exercises there also has given rise to great fears in this regard. [paragraph continues]

It has not slipped the Turks' attention that the F-111 aircraft is the same aircraft which took part in the U.S. Air Force's piratical attack on the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Banghazi last year.

Sober-minded Turkish figures are warning against the country following in the wake of the U.S. policy of militarist adventures. Turkey's national interests dictate the need to steer an independent course toward the consolidation and development of peaceful, mutually advantageous cooperation with all neighboring countries.

## TASS on Talks in Turkey

LD201850 Moscow TASS in English 1643 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 20 TASS -- TASS commentator Aleksey Andrianov writes:

U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger today concluded negotiations in Turkey with National Defence Minister Zaki Yavuzturk and other Turkish officials. The talks were held behind closed doors, and their agenda was not announced.

But as political observers note, the questions of the implementation of the Turkish-American agreement in the sphere of defences and economics, recently extended in Washington for another five years were obviously in the focus of attention. The Istanbul HURRIYET reported that the questions discussed included the plans to set up in Turkey an enterprise for the assembly of U.S. F-16 fighter bombers and plans for the modernisation of the Turkish Armed Forces.

Making reference to military sources, CUMHURIYET reported that 16 technological contracts were recently signed to develop the 1982 agreement between the two countries on the modernisation of air bases. The agreement, specifically, envisages the construction of two new airfields in the east of Turkey in Musha [place-name as received] and Batman Districts and the modernisation of 12 other military airfields.

The network of U.S. NATO facilities in the Turkish territory will thus be considerably expanded. In return, the United States makes vague promises to increase the volume of military and economic aid which, in the opinion of the Turkish side, is still insufficient.

Washington is clearly unwilling to meet Ankara's demand for a greater financial aid needed because of serious economic difficulties through which Turkey is living. This unwillingness was an obstacle during the discussion of the agreement on extending cooperation in the sphere of defences and economics, which dragged out for nearly a year and a half. It was also a stumbling block during the latest negotiations with the Pentagon's chief in Ankara. Besides that, Turkey has actually been given no answer to its request to defer the repayment of a huge external debt, to remove the discrimination barriers in foreign trade with the USA as a result of which Turkey runs into a deficit of hundred million dollars every year.

Ignoring Turkey's lawful demands, the USA at the same time seeks to secure from it the greatest possible number of privileges for its military bases. Trying to intimidate Turkey with the alleged "Soviet menace" of which Caspar Weinberger talked at a press conference in Ankara again, the United States is trying to harness Turkey to the NATO bloc more securely. And genuine national interests of the Turkish people are undoubtedly jeopardised in this way.

## ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH EGYPT

LD201903 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1830 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 20 Mar (TASS) -- A protocol between the USSR and the Arab Republic of Egypt was signed in Moscow today. This protocol provides in particular for a settlement of the credit account relations between the two countries. The sides have come to an agreement to continue work to develop mutually advantageous relations on a stable basis. A program for broadening Soviet-Egyptian trade and economic, and currency and financial cooperation for the next few years and for the longer term has been outlined.

The protocol was signed:

-- From the Soviet side, by Viktor Dementsev, head of the government economic delegation and chairman of the USSR Gosbank board;

-- From the Egyptian side, by Yusri 'Ali Mustafa, head of the government economic delegation and minister of economy and foreign trade of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

### 'Debts Rescheduled'

NC210926 Paris AFP in English 0914 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Moscow, March 21 (AFP) -- Egypt and the Soviet Union Friday signed a protocol for rescheduling Cairo's debt with Moscow which according to Western specialists could be as high as seven billion dollars, informed Egyptian sources said here Saturday.

TASS news agency on Friday reported that a protocol had been signed, but simply said it covered "the settlement of mutual credit and accounts relations" and did not give further details.

The Egyptian source said the discussions on the debt, which opened here earlier this month, had been "successfully concluded" and the talks on other bilateral issues could continue on Monday.

He said he was unable to provide further information concerning the debt rescheduling. The full amount of the debt has never been officially announced, but Western specialists say it probably stands between five and seven billion dollars. [passage omitted]

## SOLIDARITY DELEGATION MEETS WITH EGYPT'S GHALI

LD231137 Moscow TASS in English 1045 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo March 23 TASS -- Butrus Ghali, Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, received Sunday a visiting delegation from the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee led by the committee's first deputy chairman Vladimir Tolstikov.

During the meeting, Ghali spoke out for invigorated relations between Egyptian and Soviet state and public organisations.

The minister expressed satisfaction with the Soviet-Egyptian economic protocol signed in Moscow, and said that the protocol would give a fresh impulse to extending ties between the two countries.

As the chairman of the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Society, Ghali noted the role the public in both countries played in developing relations of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and Egypt.

He also expressed the hope that the activities of his society and stepped-up ties with the Soviet public would promote the noble goals of strengthening Soviet-Egyptian relations.

On the same day, member of the Soviet delegation Allashukur Pashaev, who is chairman of the Moslem board for Transcaucasia, was received by Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, Egypt's minister of WAKFS (Islamic endownment).

During the meeting, the sides discussed related to expanding ties between Moslems in the two countries.

The Egyptian minister said that the development of relations of friendship between Egypt and the USSR promoted stronger peace around the world.

The meeting pointed out the need for more efforts on the part of religious communities in the campaign for peace and cooperation among nations.

## 'INTERNATIONAL' MEETING CONVENES IN CYPRUS

NC220732 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] An international meeting to discuss the Great October Socialist Revolution experience and the urgent problems of the communists' activities among the Muslim masses has been held in Nicosia. Representatives from the communist and labor parties of several Islamic countries, as well as nations with large Muslim populations, participated in this meeting.

The conferees noted that the idea of the Great October Socialist Revolution has special importance for contemporary and political activities in eastern countries. Various speakers asserted that the mobilization of people, irrespective of their political and religious belief, is important in the struggle to consolidate peace and remove the threat of war. They stressed that the zealous call to all reasonable forces to save the world from destruction, a call heard repeatedly in the Soviet Union's initiatives in this regard, has been widely accepted and enjoys sincere support throughout the world.

## MAGAZINE INTERVIEWS ACADEMICIAN PRIMAKOV

PM201029 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 20 Mar 87 p 27

[Interview with Yevgeniy Primakov, Director of the USSR Academy of Science World Economics and International Relations Institute, by Kamran Qarah Daghi in London; date not given]

[Excerpt] [introductory passage omitted] [Qarah Daghi] How does the Soviet Union evaluate the Syrian forces' entry to West Beirut?

[Primakov] The Syrian forces' entry to Beirut has led to a stabilization of the situation whether those opposed to this entry like it or not. It is quite obvious that matters would have become much worse had it not been for this Syrian measure.

It is this result in particular that forms the basis of our positive evaluation of the Syrian entry.

[Qarah Daghi] Otherwise, what are the other justifications and on what basis do you see that the entry this time is different from the previous entry or intervention?

[Primakov] This is not an intervention but rather an entry. The parliamentary leaders and the Lebanese Government called on Syria to send its forces. It is true that President of the Republic Amin al-Jumayyil is not very pleased with the matter, but what must be taken into consideration is the level the state of affairs has reached on one hand, and on the other hand the fact that the matter in any case concerns West Beirut. It concerns that part of Beirut that belongs to the Muslims. It was the Muslim leaders who made the call to the Syrian forces. In any case, the Syrian entry this time is different and, consequently, will have different implications.

[Qarah Daghi] On this occasion certain press reports indicated that the Syrian entry, should it go beyond certain limits, could lead to an Israeli entry. Do you believe that there is a possibility of a Syrian-Israeli confrontation?

[Primakov] You and we know well that people well versed in Middle East affairs cannot give a categorical answer to this question because it is difficult to speculate on what is going on in the minds of the various parties, and particularly the mind of Israel, regarding the Syrian entry, although I can be certain in this case that the Syrian side is not seeking any confrontation with Israel. But with regard to Israel, it is difficult for us to say anything definite and we can only take account of certain considerations, including the fact that the political situation in Israel is sufficiently complex and that the various forces in it are pursuing policies which, all in all, converge into a single channel which aims at retaining the occupied Arab territories. However, the fact that these forces at the same time follow different tactics is of major importance and should never be ignored. Because of all this it is difficult in the circumstances to categorically deny the possibility of a confrontation. Nevertheless, on the basis of my long experience in Middle East affairs, it appears to me that the possibility of the outbreak of an Israeli-Syrian war this time is unlikely.

[Qarah Daghi] Is it possible, following the series of Soviet contacts and political and diplomatic trips to a number of Arab capitals late last year, to expect a new Soviet initiative relating to realizing the idea of an international conference?

[Primakov] Our stand in this regard remains firm. It is based on putting forth successive initiatives in order to achieve some progress. New trips to the Middle East at the level of senior Foreign Ministry officials and the Soviet political leadership are certainly in the pipeline. We still insist on the need to convene an international conference and a preparatory meeting in which the Security Council permanent member states would participate. Recently the EC has joined the call for realizing this idea, thereby giving a greater weight to our stand.

However, the principal party that is seeking to abort the idea is Israel and, more precisely, its Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir who recently visited the United States and, I would imagine, succeeded in imposing his views on the U.S. Administration. After it had shown some inclination before the visit it reverted to its stand of rejection and of support for Israel under Shamir's direct influence. Israel's motives are quite clear to us. It does not want an international conference with the Soviet Union's participation and in the first place it does not want an agreement to be reached on the basis of compromise. Rather it prefers to maintain the status quo. I am inclined to believe that this is what the U.S. Administration wants too. This stand in my view is characterized by extreme shortsightedness.

[Qarah Daghi] On the plane of Egyptian-Soviet relations can it be said that there are tangible signs of progress being achieved in them?

[Primakov] Soviet-Egyptian relations are developing at present in a manner which I can describe as normal. This was what I personally felt during my visit to Cairo and the long discussion I had with President Mubarak and other Egyptian leaders, particularly Usamah al-Baz who left me with a strong impression that leads me to believe that he is one of the most prominent personalities responsible for formulating details of Egyptian foreign policy.

But allow me to stress here a particular point: In the West and, unfortunately, in the Arab world they often consider any step the Soviet Union takes toward improving relations with a certain state as proceeding from the objective of exploiting contradictions, whether within the country concerned or between it and a third country. The matter is not so. The Soviet Union takes a comprehensive view of its international relations. This applies to our relations with India and China, for example, and to our desire to improve and normalize relations with Egypt without this necessarily being at the expense of our relations with other parties.

[Primakov] Can you mention some specific measures that confirm the improvement of Soviet Egyptian relations?

[Primakov] I do not wish to go into known details relating to the recent development in economic relations between the Soviet Union and Egypt, but I would like to point out to something more important, namely the opening, and the preservation of existing, channels of political consultation between us.

[Qarah Daghi] What comment have you to make on the view that what Soviet President Gromyko told the Iranian foreign minister when he recently received him in Moscow constitutes a new development in the Soviet stand on the Iraq-Iran war?

[Primakov] In principle, our stand has been firm since the beginning of this war, whether when the Iraqi forces were on Iranian soil or when the Iranian forces were on Iraqi soil.

We still firmly believe that this war will benefit nobody except the forces hostile to Arab interests as well as the interests of the Iranian people.

I would like to add that every time a Soviet-Iranian contact takes place at any level whether in Tehran or in Moscow, the Soviet side seizes the opportunity to try to bring pressure to bear with the aim of changing the Iranian attitude. But unfortunately our attempts so far have not succeeded.

[Qarah Daghi] Finally, what is new on the plane of Soviet-Saudi relations?

[Primakov] First, it must be once again reiterated that diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and the Saudi Arabian Kingdom officially exist and, therefore, the problem does not concern the restoration of these relations.

As for the contacts and efforts being made to bring about a rapprochement between the two sides, they exist and are continuing. Recently the Saudi oil minister, Hisham Nazir, visited Moscow.

I would like to add that we are extremely interested in developing Soviet-Saudi relations and making them normal, proceeding from our realization of the role Saudi Arabia is playing in the Arab world as well as from our stand that is based on the firm traditions of these relations.

## ANNIVERSARY OF BILATERAL TIES WITH ALGERIA NOTED

LD221429 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2135 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Algiers, 22 Mar (TASS) -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Urazov reports:

The 25th anniversary of the establishing of diplomatic relations between the USSR and the Algeria is 23 March. The USSR was one of the first states to recognize the young republic.

Having achieved independence, Algeria firmly took the path of positive neutrality; In practice it follows an anti-imperialist, anticolonialist course, supports national liberation movements, and advocates the development of cooperation with all countries on the basis of equal rights and noninterference in internal affairs. Algiers plays an important role in the Nonaligned Movement, in the cohesion of progressive forces in the Arab world, in the struggle against imperialism and Zionism, against the course for separate deals in the Middle East settlement. It assists the strengthening of unity in the ranks of the Palestinian resistance movement.

With the assistance of the USSR many important industrial installations have been built in Algiers, including a convertor and wire workshop, two coke furnaces, and a metallurgical works in el-Hadzhar -- the first of heavy industry in Algeria. With the assistance of the USSR a thermal power station in Annaba, ensuring electrical power in the eastern regions of Algiers, a gas pipeline in (Alrar-tin-Fiye), a lead an zinc concentration factory in (El-Abed), the "Ismail" mercury enterprise, a glass workshop in Oran, and many other installations were constructed in Algiers. With the participation of Soviet geologists deposits of precious metals were prospected.

In the southern regions hydrologists drilled 250 wells which, according to the estimate of Algerian specialists, ensures drinking water for 7 million people and enables the irrigation of more than 14,000 hectares of land. Hundreds of Soviet lecturers work in Algerian higher and specialized educational establishments. More than 1,000 young Algerian men and women train in the USSR. Cooperation in the sphere of public health, science, culture, and sport is developing successfully.

A new stage in the development of Soviet-Algerian relations was opened by the visit to the USSR by Chadli Bendjedid, general secretary of the FLN Party and president of the republic, in spring last year. The joint communique on the results of the visit stressed that the development and expansion of Soviet-Algerian cooperation, based on the principles of equality, mutual advantage and full regard for each other, meets the fundamental interests of both countries.

## Ministries Exchange Greetings

LD221639 Moscow TASS in English 1618 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 22 TASS -- On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Algeria the Foreign Ministries of the USSR and of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic exchanged congratulatory telegrams.

The telegram of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that durable and sincere friendship between the Soviet and Algerian peoples vividly manifested itself in the present-day fruitful and mutually advantageous cooperation between the two countries. It pointed out a special importance of their joint struggle for the prevention of a nuclear catastrophe and for a reliable peace on earth.

The telegram of the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the high level reached in the relations between the Soviet Union and Algeria was evidence of durable friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

## BRIEFS

PDRY POWER GENERATION -- Moscow, 20 Mar 9 (TASS) -- Soviet specialists will participate in compiling a general scheme for the development of power generation in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. An understanding on this was reached at the fifth session of the subcommission on power generation of the permanent commission on economic and technical cooperation between the USSR and the PDRY which ended here today. The session also discussed questions connected with the progress being made in constructing near Aden a 125 mw thermal power station and desalination installations with a total capacity of 42,000 cu.m. of distillate per 24 hours, and also questions connected with the training of qualified personnel to construct and run them. [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian]

## PRAVDA CITES DOBRYNIN MEETING CUBA'S RISQUET

PM181659 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Meeting at the CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] A.F. Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, had a meeting at the CPSU Central Committee on 11 March with J. Risquet, member of the Politburo and Secretariat of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee. During the friendly conversation the representatives of the two fraternal parties exchanged views on certain matters pertaining to the international situation and Soviet-Cuban cooperation.

## TASS NOTES CASTRO MEETING WITH DPRK OFFICIAL

LD201417 Moscow TASS in English 1317 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Havana March 20 TASS -- Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, met here with Kim Yong-nam, deputy premier of the administration council, minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who is staying in Cuba on an official visit.

The sides discussed the expansion of economic cooperation between the developing countries within the framework of "South-South" dialogue.

They also discussed preparations for the meeting of representatives of nonaligned countries to be held in Pyongyang next June.

During the meeting the Cuban side expressed support for the stand of People's Korea which insists that the 1988 Olympic Games be held in North and South Korea simultaneously.

## COMMITTEE SIGNS TV AGREEMENT WITH ARGENTINA

LD210949 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2319 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, [no month as received] 21 (TASS) -- An agreement has been signed here on cooperation between the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting and the private Argentinian television company Canal 9. It envisages sending to Argentina Soviet television feature programs which Canal 9 will transmit throughout the whole country and will also supply to television companies of 20 Latin American countries.

A protocol of intent was also signed on the exchange of television programs and cooperation with the state television company Argentina Televisora Color. The sides stressed the importance of the exchange of feature, news, and musical programs to coincide with the national festivals of the USSR and Argentina -- 7 November and 25 May.

The Argentinian television companies expressed interest in using material from the Vremya news program in their broadcasts, which they could receive by satellite.

## DNEPROPETROVSK PARTY CHIEF RELIEVED OF DUTIES

PM191113 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 87 Second Edition p 2

[Report by special correspondent N. Mironov and M. Odinets: "Obkom Plenum"]

[Text] Dnepropetrovsk, 17 Mar -- A plenum of the Dnepropetrovsk Ukrainian Communist Party Obkom has been held to discuss the question of the party obkom's fulfillment of the 27th CPSU Congress demands on restructuring party leadership of the oblast's socioeconomic development and a CPSU Central Committee sections' memorandum. An organizational question was also resolved at the plenum. For permitting serious shortcomings in work V.G. Boyko was relieved of the duties of first secretary of Dnepropetrovsk party obkom.

## UKRAINIAN PLENUM DISMISSES LVOV OBKOM CHIEF

LD201912 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 20 Mar 87

[From the "Vremya" newcast]

[Text] A plenum of the Lvov Obkom of the Ukrainian Communist Party was held today. There was a discussion of the tasks ensuing from a note from CPSU Central Committee departments on the results of a check of letters received from Lvov Oblast, and from a decision adopted by the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee on this issue.

An organizational matter was examined. The plenum released Comrade Dobrik from his duties of first secretary of the obkom because of a weakening in the leadership of the oblast party organization and for serious failings committed in work. Comrade Pogrebnyak, who previously worked as a secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee was elected first secretary of the Lvov obkom.

## ALMA-ATA PAPER ON ASKAROV EXPULSION FROM CPSU

PM191345 Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Mar 87 p 3

[Own correspondent T. Kvyatkovskaya report: "'Poisoned' by Total License; How the Degeneration of Communist A. Askarov Occurred"]

[Text] On 2 March 1987 a meeting was held at the primary party organization of the No 99 Housing Management Administration at which the Communists examined the personal case of A. Askarov, former first secretary of Chimkent Kazakh Communist Party Obkom.

At the meeting the Communists made a detailed and scrupulous analysis of the activity of A. Askarov, who worked for more than 20 years in leading party posts. Some had earlier clashed personally with A. Askarov in the line of duty. There is no need to "dig deep," so to speak, to find facts and examples of A. Askarov's gross violation of party and state discipline. At one time the oblast party committees did not give a principled evaluation of such facts and did not call the culprits strictly to account. In their speeches the Communists stressed that now it was their duty to reveal A. Askarov's true face and that his guilt before the party must not be hushed up.

Here it is -- the past, facts and examples...

At the Chimkent lead plant in the 2d quarter of 1984 fulfillment of the output plan was overreported to the tune of R3 million, and bonuses amounting to R141,000 were paid illegally. Knowing this, the obkom nominated the plant collective for a state award, and in August the plant was awarded the Order of the Labor Red Banner. That year 95 instances of overreporting in the construction industry amounting to R3.5 million were discovered in the oblast. For a number of years the oblast livestock breeding association double-counted the livestock it delivered -- through mutual buying and selling. In this way 1,721 metric tons of nonexistent meat was "produced," but the R4.8 million paid out for it by the state were perfectly real.

Though he had information about the murky deeds in these sectors as well, the party obkom and A. Askarov personally did not take measures to eradicate them. The best irrigated land was squandered -- it was rented out to "private operators" -- agricultural crop yields fell, and mismanagement and waste flourished: In 1984 the oblast consumed double the set quota of meat for internal farm purposes -- and again no measures were taken.

For years large groups of embezzlers and bribe-takers operated at the Chimkent Confectionery Factory and the oblast fruit and vegetable production association. In 1981-1984 the number of crimes increased by one-third, and thefts of socialist property almost doubled. The investigation of many such cases was conducted superficially, was unjustifiably dragged out, and often was stopped. The judicial system was truly guilty of indulgence toward serious criminals, and the obkom bureau and A. Askarov personally adopted a tolerant attitude.

In some things the former obkom first secretary personally showed initiative, persistence and consistency. Even now when people in Chimkent take you on a tour of the city, they speak of "Askarov's" racetrack, zoo, and arboretums. It should be remembered that these projects cost more than R7 million. When there is an acute shortage of housing, the hasty construction of a villa at the "Sary-Agach" sanatorium certainly could not be called concern for the good of the people. The "Chimkentselstroy-25" Trust built it with its own resources under the guise of reconstructing the sanatorium building. Construction cost R468,000, plus R70,000 for decorating, furniture, and expensive radio equipment. On paper the building was listed as a 12-apartment block belonging to a trust mobile mechanized column. There was another hunting "cabin" in the oblast with an area of 233 square meters. A power line, a telephone link, and 14 km of road must be added to its cost. A. Askarov himself and his guests rested there.

The situation was embellished at obkom plenums and party aktiv meetings, and a purely formal attitude was shown to workers' letters and their alerts. For instance, a series of letters disclosed disclosed the incorrect actions of A. Komekbayev, chief of the Obkom Trade and Financial Organs Section: He illegally obtained a 4-room apartment (172 square meters!) for a family of four in the same block as A. Askarov, and the families of his three daughters violated procedures when moving into apartments. A. Komekbayev illegally intervened in the investigation of a criminal case.

The obkom reported to superior organs that the facts had not been borne out, but in fact it did not carry out an investigation.

A. Askarov, enjoying high patronage, permitted serious violations in cadre questions and selected people for leading posts on grounds of kinship, nationality, and personal loyalty: Most of the gorkom and raykom first secretaries and gorispolkom and rayispolkom chairman promoted by him during his work in Alma-Ata and Chimkent Oblasts have been relieved of their posts. Here are some examples. L. Bekzhanov, avoiding the consequences of his actions, moved from Uzbekistan to Chimkent and was hired as a raykom instructor. A year later A. Askarov recommended him for the post of first secretary of the Chardarinskiy party raykom. The abuses then began: insults and intimidation of subordinates, degradation of their human dignity, and even the organization of militia surveillance of people he disliked. A. Mustafayev, former first secretary of Chimkent's Abayskiy Raykom, enjoyed A. Askarov's particular favor.

Now Bekzhanov has been expelled from the party and Mustafayev has been arrested. This happened under the new oblast leadership.

Through influential people A. Askarov promoted his son to the post of deputy chief of the Alma-Ata Party Obkom Party Organizational Work Department, and his son-in-law to the same post in the party gorkom.

A. Askarov maintained friendly relations with citizen Dairbekov, the same well-known criminal who was later sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment. When working at the Alma-Ata party obkom, A. Askarov did not prevent teaching cadres and students from being picked for VUZ's on the basis of patronage, home town ties, and kinship, thereby distorting national representation, and this led to serious damage to young people's international education. A. Askarov tried to hush up the shortcomings and abuses, and persecuted those who tried to uncover them. When V.I. Siskov, a worker in the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee Administrative Organs Department who was a member of the inspection team, revealed omissions and violations in the party obkom's activity, A. Askarov "expressed dissatisfaction," and orders came from the former leadership o the republic Communist Party Central Committee that the inspector be assigned to other work.....

In short, more than enough facts showing the Communist's stance, moral essence, and attitude to his party duty were revealed. The floor was given to A. Askarov himself. he agreed with some of the facts, and denied others. Even with regard to those matters on which he at first admitted his responsibility and guilt, he endeavored, by "straightening out" the facts, to pin the blame on others: The former Central Committee leadership, his subordinates, production workers, the trust which (on his instructions) built the villa... The behavior of A. Askarov, who once again revealed his insincerity and hypocrisy, angered the Communists.

The membership of the No 99 Housing Management Administration primary organization consists mainly of old party members with much experience of both production and organizational work, war and labor veterans, people who hold party honor dear. Not only principledness, but anger and pain were heard in their speeches.

A.I. Lisitsyn, a retired colonel, said to the face of the man in question that he was a thread of the "web" which IZVESTIYA wrote about. He put him in the same category as "immoral embezzlers like Bekezhanov and Statenin." He was highly indignant that the Alma-Ata's Frunzenskiy party raykom, the party organization which registered A. Askarov in October 1985, shielded him from responsibility for 18 months and did not examine his personal case. Throughout this period there was constant talk in the caital: So restructuring has not reached the raykom, even though an article in PRAVDA as far back as 14 July 1985 gave serious grounds for examining A. Askarov's party responsibility.

Speaking at the meeting, I.Ye. Kolomiyets, M.R. Manasov, A. Nursultanov, V.A. Pustovalov and others spoke sharply about A. Askarov, who, by compromising his own title as Communist, also cast a shadow over those who are true to their party duty. The Communists expressed regret that they had ever voted for A. Askarov as people's deputy, and admitted unreservedly that the degeneration of this Communist had been established beyond question. He exploited the lack of control and became "poisoned" with total license. By becoming the defender of sycophants and toadies, covering up the antistate practice of overreporting and distortion, and forgetting the norms of party morality and ethics, he has forfeited the right to bear the title of Communist.

The meeting of the primary party organization decided to expel A. Askarov from the CPSU. The Communists proposed asking the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium to examine the legitimacy of the award to A. Askarov of the title of Hero of Socialist Labor and the presentation of other government awards to him. Item three in the meeting's resolution reads: "The Alma-Ata party gorkom is to be informed of the incorrect registration of A. Askarov and the fact that he was protected and shielded from party proceedings for 18 months. It is deemed that the position of the Frunzenskiy Raykom does not accord with the directives of the 27th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum."

## NAYDENOV ON INDIVIDUAL LABOR ACTIVITIES

LD152034 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 15 Mar 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video interview with Viktor Vasilyevich Naydenov, USSR deputy procurator general by unidentified correspondent]

[Text] The law on individual labor activity comes into force on 1 May 1987. Viktor Vasilyevich Naydenov, USSR deputy procurator general, has given this interview for the "Vremya" program:

[Naydenov] The law itself enumerates some 30 forms of individual labor activity, but it is written into the law that, in light of local conditions or national peculiarities or traditions, other forms of individual labor activity may be also permitted. Here, for instance, one would consider the desirability of developing arts and crafts, particularly rare crafts.

[Correspondent] Viktor Vasilyevich, this brings us to a question of interest to very many people: Who has the right to engage in individual labor activity?

[Naydenov] Those who may engage in it are blue- and white-collar workers involved in manufacturing in the main; others who may engage in it are war and labor veterans, housewives, those in education and students. This does not mean that, for instance, if someone works badly in his production job, fails to fulfil his plan or infringes labor discipline, he will be permitted to engage in individual labor activity. I do not think it will work like that. Moreover, it is actually written into the law that such a state of affairs could lead to an exodus from public sector production, which is where the main material assets are generated, and that cannot be allowed. Under the USSR Constitution, individual labor activity must take place under state control. Those who would engage in it fill in a declaration on their annual income and they will be taxed according to this. It should be said that the rate of taxation will be within the limits of, or perhaps a fraction higher than, those currently paid on income by blue- and white-collar workers.

[Correspondent] Yes, but here perhaps we should also mention, Viktor Vasilyevich...

[Naydenov, interrupting] So far I have been speaking only about one form of, so to speak, control. Another form of control is licensing. This has been incorporated into the law, and will apply to those types of individual labor activity which are not associated with a single fixed place of residence, which, for instance, involve traveling to various regions and republics. There is another point I should make here. People who abuse their situation may be deprived of the right to engage in individual labor activity. Those who fail to fill in the declaration correctly, or to fill it in at all, may have other measures taken against them. A system of control has been created which will enable all these matters to be put naturally into the necessary framework required for implementation of the law.

## Moscow Committee on Activities

LD191649 Moscow TASS in English 1448 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 19 TASS -- The Executive Committee of the Moscow City Soviet has decided to give home-industry producers of consumer goods six hundred trading places at Moscow's markets. This is only the first step, of course: The number of such places at Moscow's markets is to be considerably increased when the new law on individual labour activities enters into force in six weeks.

"We hope that increased individual labour activities and the development of a network of cooperatives in the public catering system, public services and consumer goods production will help fill in the still existing shortfall, in supplying consumer demand," Yuriy Ivannikov, deputy head of the USSR State Committee for Labour and Social Matters, said to a TASS correspondent.

"Cooperative cafes, small shops and bakeries are now being opened in different cities of the USSR," he said. "Over a hundred cooperative establishments processing secondary raw materials are already in operation. Individual taxi cabs have appeared in the streets of a number of big cities. Those are only the first results of the measures taken."

There is no doubt, Ivannikov went on, that the individual sector will soon become more active. About a thousand handicraftsmen have been officially registered in Moscow alone. They produce many of the little things needed by people but not yet manufactured by the state industry -- fashionable belts, hair pins, beautiful buttons, brooches, etc. It is they who are now given places at the markets. We hope that in spring our markets will throw their doors wide open to handicraftsmen and become more attractive to buyers.

## SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA on Issue

PM171431 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 13 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[S. Kosterin report: "Guarantee a Service. Notes From a Conference Devoted to the Upcoming Introduction of the Law on Individual Labor Activity"]

[Text] Valid Concern [subhead]

Private cars have already appeared in the streets of some of our cities with a "Taxi" sign fixed to the car's windshield by its owner during time off from his main job. [paragraph continues]

During rush hours the passenger is content -- the lines at state taxi stands have gotten shorter. You still will not see signs like this in the streets: "Furniture. Suites Manufactured to Customer's Designs. Cabinetmakers Guarantee High Quality." They will definitely appear. The Law on Individual Labor Activity permits such paid services to be rendered. We await the emergence of "beauty salons," we await car servicing, which is still such a strained area. We await....

We await. There are just 6 weeks left! What preparations are being made for the May days, what difficulties are being encountered on the way to implementing the new law, and how are ministries, departments, and local organs of power resolving these complex questions?

At a conference in the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on Wednesday, 11 March, P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, pointed out that the mass media are validly sounding the alarm over the sluggishness displayed by soviet ispolkoms and the lack of initiative in the practical preparations to validate the Law on Individual Labor Activity. Mention was made, in particular, of a SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA article: the critical report "Will the Coach Be Driven to the Registration Office?" from Moscow Oblast's Balashikhinskiy Rayon.

At that conference leaders of central ministries and departments and of local organs of power shared views on how best to implement the new law, what is being undertaken for that, and what documentation is being prepared.

A Minimum of Obstacles [subhead]

The most widespread reason for the leisurely approach locally is the claim that soviet ispolkoms are not receiving acts and normatives, and that, it is said, is why there is no action. But, as the conference participants pointed out, certain comrades have read obliquely the text of the Law on Individual Labor Activity adopted by the USSR Supreme Soviet session and not bothered to begin implementing what does not even require agreement, directions, or instructions from the center.

As for the most important government acts, I. Gladkiy, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems, spoke about them. He reported that the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems, together with other ministries and departments involved in implementing the law, has prepared and submitted for approval draft documents on taxation, the procedure for paying pensions, funding, and others.

They provide for a minimum of obstacles, a minimum of prohibitions. In particular, a proposal has been submitted to pay pensions regardless of the size of income obtained as a result of individual labor activity. For the acquisition of tools and semimanufactures it is proposed to open lines of credit to the tune of up to R2,000, to be repaid within a year. What does a car owner need to be a "carrier"? He has to have a driver's license, certain driving experience, and a medical certificate and keep the vehicle in good condition. This is the response to citizens' numerous wishes.

I. Gladkiy correctly emphasized that it is necessary to ascertain without delay the local needs for kinds of services and the range of enterprises at which it is possible by agreement to carry on individual labor activity, and to determine the enterprises' potential for allocating equipment.

Things are already in full swing in places where people do not wait for instructions. I Tallinn, Riga, and Leningrad types of transport services are actively being developed. In Latvia and Estonia there has already been a sharp increase in the number of people engaging in individual labor activity. In short people must act without waiting for instructions.

Financial organs must not hinder but must help people who wish to engage in individual labor activity. This question remains acute, for old instructions are still current. USSR Deputy Finance Minister V. Orlov reported on a proposal to levy an income tax on income, say, up to R3,000 in just the same way as for workers and employees, and to levy taxes in rural localities just as under urban conditins. It is the USSR Finance Ministry's intention to remove all unsubstantiated obstacles that hinder the development of individual labor activity.

"You have drawn up financial normatives. Have they been seen by those who are going to engage in individual labor activity, and are they familiar with them?" V. Orlav was asked at the conference.

A hesitant answer followed. Yes, such work definitely must be done.

A Place in the Market [subhead]

Another acute problem: How will the state help those who embark on the path of individual labor activity? With semimanufactures and raw materials? There are difficulties here. Gossnab First Deputy Chairman Yu. Boyev does not conceal them. For the USSR Gossnab has had to deal only with enterprises. Timber trade bases, commission stores, and stores trading in enterprises' waste products will now be included in the supply chain. Where these do not exist, the enterprises themselves must assume these obligations. The system of preliminary orders must enjoy wide development....

How will state trade react? For it is known that our stores have norms for issuing goods to an individual. USSR First Deputy Trade Minister P. Kondrashov explained that retail and cooperative trade stores have been given instructions to issue semimanufactures without restriction in return for cash payment to people engaging in individual labor activity. For it is a question not of finished products but of semimanufactures for their production -- such as fabrics, for example. Unfortunately, there is still a list of scarce goods, such as yarn. Local organs have been given the right to establish normatives here.

Now about sales of products. Where is the trade counter for the producers of goods? The commission store. It is more convenient this way. For there the "supplier" is free to ask his own price, no higher than retail prices, of course. How extensive is this counter now? The country's commission stores now have at their disposal 435,000 square meters. This very year this "trade hall" will be increased by one-third as the result both of new construction and of the stores' diversification [pereprofilirovaniye].

Things are more complex regarding trade in enterprises' waste products. So far there are just 360 such stores, but their number will more than double during this year.

The Law on Individual Labor Activity also opens up new potential for consumer cooperatives, particularly in the supply of raw materials and sales of products. [paragraph continues]

Tsentrosoyuz Deputy Chairman N. Lupey reported that 2,000 stores which trade in nonfood goods are now operating within that system, and a further 500 will be opened. The new statute on markets, now being drafted, will allocate a suitable place to people from the individual labor activity sector.

Who Will Answer the Call? [subhead]

The new law allows doctors and middle-level medical personnel to engage in individual labor activity. USSR Deputy Health Minister G. Khlyabich provided explanations in this connection. Doctors will receive the right to issue prescriptions on special forms. However, the issuing of certificates of temporary incapacity for work does not come within their competence, and, equally, they are not permitted to prescribe certain kinds of medicines, such as narcotics.

Individual labor activity will enable medics to relieve the strain on such kinds of medical services as stomatology, massage, and nursing of sick people. However, the list of services does not include surgical operations or treatment of infectious diseases.

First Steps Taken [subhead]

Time is pressing. It is necessary to generalize the first experience more quickly, analyze it, and instruct the remaining regions on the basis of it. This is what has been started in Moscow, for example. Moscow Gorispolkom First Deputy Chairman Yu. Luzhkov said that people in the capital have at once ascertained "bottlenecks" in the services sphere and drawn up a list of the services of which the population is in acute need. These include furniture repairs, photographic work, and motor transport. Of course, competition -- and quite fierce competition -- awaits Moscow taxi pools, for example, from private car owners. What of it? This will only improve the quality of their services. This is becoming noticeable even now.

The chief thing being done in the capital is that individual labor activity is being given a businesslike, well conceived organizational basis. A commission on individual labor activity has been set up in each rayon, and a kind of "campaign against legal illiteracy" has been mounted for soviet apparatus workers.

What are the practical steps? A careful inventory is being made everywhere of production waste, machine tool equipment, and premises that could be allocated to cooperatives and individuals. People have set their sights on the population's need for such scarce services as the nursing of sick people. It has been decided to erect a kind of "bridge" between sick people and those wishing to nurse them. For this purpose the "bridge" includes information bureaus, where all the necessary information will be concentrated.

Of course, not all the directions have been thought out yet. The Moscow City Soviet, for example, believes that the services of state hairdressers are adequate and that the need is being met, so to speak. But is that so? Muscovites and guests of the capital need not just services but top-class services. There are lines for the capital's top-category hairdressing salons. So it is still not possible to do without help from the individual labor activity sector.

Moscow has accumulated good experience of holding fairs. This experience will come in handy when the new law comes into effect. [paragraph continues]

For "trade guests" from many oblasts of the country will travel to the capital to sell goods. The Moscow City Soviet has come up with the good idea of organizing "day-off fairs."

The Moscow City Soviet also voices fears about the possible corruption of the city's appearance. For someone entering upon individual labor activity will want somehow to announce his presence. There is already a multitude of homemade notices stuck to posts and entrance doors. The Moscow City Soviet has decided to forestall the possible consequences: Publicity organizations have been instructed to prepare special notice boards for this purpose.

The capital also must not forget the experience of the activities of prewar producers' artels. It is necessary to take a closer look at it and extract what is useful.

To Answer Questions [subhead]

A new, crucial matter has been undertaken. A mass of questions is arising. The "campaign against legal illiteracy" in the capital is a good thing, but it is only for apparatus workers. Who will provide the answers to the questions from the main body of people which is already awaiting them? It is clearly necessary to restructure the work of legal advice bureaus and constrict explanatory work in them on litigious and criminal cases in favor of questions of individual labor activity. People must be ready for this in enterprises and at their places of residence.

V. Kolmogorov, first deputy chairman of Moscow Oblispolkom, correctly addressed complaints to central organs: There is an urgent need for provisional collections of all kinds of normative legal codes. True, the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems has given an assurance that such collections are being prepared and will be published in mass editions. They are needed sooner, now.

Not to tarry -- this was the leitmotiv of the discussion. For it is a question not of some routine measure but of a very important state matter. As P.N. Demichev emphasized, pensioners, schoolchildren, students, and nonworking women must be involved more widely in individual labor activity. Soviet ispolkoms must realize that they are participating in resolving a major social problem.

## Doctors in Private Practice

LD212233 Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 21 Mar 87

[From the "Soviet Union Looking to the Third Millenium" program presented by Aleksey Strogonov]

[Text] [Strogonov] In this weekly feature "The Soviet Union Looking to the Third Millenium" we make a point to involve listener participation in preparing the program. Today we will be answering a question we received from our listener in Britain. A gentleman with a divine name, Mr (Philip Christ), who makes his home in Lancashire, has written this letter:

Dear Sirs, in "The Soviet Union Looking to the Third Millenium" you have stated that doctors in the USSR will soon be able to operate in private practice, getting paid by the patients for the work they do instead of being paid by the state. This is surely a negative step.

The richer people will be able to afford a good doctor, while the poor will be made to take treatment from worse state-paid doctors. Surely, everyone should have equal access to health care. What do you say, says Mr (Philip Christ)?

Well, first of all, Mr (Christ), let me thank you for addressing this letter to this particular program. We do appreciate your interest in learning about this country. I will discuss the point you have made with my colleague Ivan Sedov. Now Ivan, what is this private practice in medical services that Mr (Christ) refers to in his letter?

[Sedov] Well, Mr (Christ) obviously refers to the new individual labor law that was adopted last year by the Soviet Parliament and will take effect shortly. Under the law private individuals will be permitted to open small scale business in the service sector catering to consumers in auto repairs, hairdressing, home repairs, and indeed health care. By May, some doctors who meet certain qualifications will be permitted to hang out a shingle and open a limited private practice, setting their own fee scales, and receiving direct payments from patients for medical services rendered. The dispensation is aimed mostly at general practitioners and pediatricians, dentists, and cosmetic specialists. Surgeons, however, will be barred from private practice. Any doctor going into private practice must be employed at a state health clinic. The same regulation applies to private practices of other professionals. However, this does not apply to pension age persons, who are free to practice on their own.

[Strongonov] But what is the special need to open private medical practice at the moment?

[Sedov] Annually, (?14,000) new doctors are trained, (?14,000) hospital beds are introduced, hundreds of new clinics are opened, but the level of health protection does not meet the requirements of the day. Svyatoslav Fedorov, a renowned Soviet doctor, said that at the recent congress of trade unions in Moscow. The mere figures, however, can be deceiving. According to the newspaper PRAVDA, medical school graduates are not able to diagnose and prescribe the correct treatment because of insufficient clinical training. Again, to quote Dr Fedorov, in order to provide all Soviet citizens with top-notch health service we need an additional 2 million qualified doctors and an additional 12 million support personnel. This would require an injection of at least R34 billion, which would be unrealistic to expect. Fedorov concluded. Obviously an injection of private effort is quite in order to improve the current levels of health care.

[Strogonov] Now let's tackle the point Mr (Christ) made in his letter with regard to the richer people being able to afford a good doctor while the poor will have to take inferior treatment. Is this likely to be the case, as Mr (Christ) implies?

[Sedov] Well, I think on this point we have to make ourselves perfectly clear. Under no circumstances unlimited private practice is going to have a negative effect on the availability of high level medical care to everyone requiring such care. Money will have nothing to do with the kind of treatment he will receive. Free medical service will continue to be the backbone of health care. As it is at present, Moscow, for example, already has about 20 officially operating self-financing clinics where patients pay the clinic direct. The payment is within the reach of anyone. Top-level medical assistance at the government's expense will still be accorded to anyone, and it is just state-paid doctors who will be on the staff of the major government medical facilities.

## YOUTH PAPER READERS JOIN RELIGION-CULTURE DEBATE

PM201905 [Editorial Report] Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 March 1987 carries on page 2 as part of its full-page "Dialogue" feature a 2,800-word selection of six readers' letters under the headline "What is the Argument About?" introduced by the following note:

"KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA is conducting a conversation about the causes of God-seeking and God-building which have recently become noticeable in some circles, including young people's circles. These alarming phenomena have also been reflected in both literature and art.

"We published on 30 July 1986 I. Kryvelev's article 'Flirting with the Divine," which drew readers' attention to this problem, followed on 10 December 1986 by a discussion between the poet Ye. Yevtushenko and the scientist S. Kaltakhchyan.

"Today we continue the conversation. Readers have justifiably raised the issue that a number of literary works 'forget' the fundamental tenet of Marxism concerning the reactionary essence of religion. This is particularly dangerous now, when religious moods are being fanned in connection with the forthcoming millenium of Russia's Conversion.

"Our selection also includes the opinions of those who try to 'justify' God-building by references to shortage of culture and spirituality in society. Yes, the level of culture and spirituality must be raised, but not at the cost of reviving evangelical dogmas which have, through the centuries, distracted people from the real struggle for a better life.

"It must also be said that the imperfections in Soviet rituals cannot provide grounds for the revival of religious rituals. We must remember that the restoration of forms is impossible without the restoration of meanings. There cannot be one without the other.

"By drawing our readers' attention to this, we expect that the conversation will continue not only in our newspaper's pages but also at Komsomol meetings and political study seminars.

Ye. Vorontsova from Moscow, senior proofreader at the journal SOVETSKOYE VOYENNOYE OBOZRENIYE, declares that she is "unquestionably" on the side of Kryvelev and Kaltakhchyan and, refuting Yevtushenko's claim that the first Christians were thrown to the lions for preaching "Thou shalt not kill" and "Love thy neighbor," says that they were persecuted for "refusing to worship the emperor's statues, in other words for disloyalty to the state."

According to painter K. Dmitrakov from Leningrad, "writers turn to the past, including the religious past, to restore to the present generations the abiding values without which man turns into a smug animal."

M. Gritsayenko from Krasnodar, worker at the "Krasnodarskiy" Sovkhoz, expresses amazement at "how even extraordinary and talented people become politically amorphous when they no longer stand on firm ground." In his view, "Yevtushenko forgets the past and the danger the church posed for the dictatorship of the proletariat at the stage of the greatest breakthrough in the country's history, when the question of 'Who will defeat whom' was being resolved."

Candidate of Biological Sciences L. Strelkov from Moscow has "nothing to add to S. Kaltakhchyan's opinion. It is a thoroughly argued opinion by a scientist, based on scientific knowledge of the subject."

A. Degtyarev from Magnitogorsk takes Yevtushenko to task for "regretting that the State Publishing House has not published the Bible," saying that "events in Poland showed the effect of knowledge of the Bible among the young: Many young people proved to be lacking a precise ideological and class orientation." Turning to the idea that authors should not be identified with their heroes, he deduces that "in this case they can propagandize whatever they like without the writer bearing any responsibility."

Finally, Yu. Aladyzhev fron Saransk, deputy secretary of the mechanical plant's party committee, lauds the achievements of socialism and says: "Now it is easy to accuse those who, at the dawn of Soviet power, mercilessly abolished the church symbols. It must not be forgotten that the Orthodox Church stubbornly defended the czarist monarchy even after it had already been overthrown."

## CRITIC LAMENTS PAST LACK OF BOLDNESS IN WRITING

PM201927 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 11, 15 Mar 87 p 13

[Valeriy Turovskiy article: "The Best Years of Our Life"]

[Text] The period many of my colleagues and myself had been dreaming about took us by surprise. "If only we could write about this," we often sighed. "But they would never allow us that! Who can ever allow such a thing to be published?" we grieved.

All those years we had been looking forward to a time, sure to come sooner or later, when everything would be allowed to be written and published.

The boldest of my elder and younger colleagues' dreams have faded into insignificance in the face of what we now have and are too shy to use. We have been waiting for this hour so long and now that it has struck -- we feel sad.

Not all of us feel that way, of course. The other day, with overwhelming amazement I read in a central newspaper that elegiac revelations by a venerable film critic, who called upon his younger brethren to "restructure" themselves with maximum expediency. How indignant he is of the recent past, how happy about today's positive changes, and how philosophical in his preaching, intended to spur on the slow and the reluctant ones!

His article is quite enthralling to read if one forgets that some four years earlier this very same critic was the only one in this whole large country to sternly and loudly lecture Roman Balayan on how injurious his "Flying in Dreams and in Life" was for the people.

Here is an example of "perestroyka" for you! Little hope of ever catching up with people like that. Not that I feel like doing so, either. Instead I feel like recollecting everything, weighing up everything, and thinking. But thinking is painful, very painful.

My generation of critics, who are now in their forties, began their professional careers at a time when it was not obligatory to prove one's loyalty by praising bad films and plays (or those considered good by the bosses). One could maintain silence and lie low while other, more experienced comrades were doing their best to pave the way for yet another many-hour-long epic. We did not call black white, or vice versa. We were proud of our own incorruptible principles. But we also avoided calling white and black by their proper names, preferring something intermediate -- that is to say, grey -- instead.

We willingly rid ourselves of the necessity to judge and appraise by merit. We made use of neutral phrases and colours, never knowing that in this way we neutralized and defeated our own profession. Criticism stopped being critical.

We developed and polished the language of hints and allusions, so that Aesopian language became more congenial to us than the language of Pushkin. If we did not have to lay traps and mines in our reviews, we did not think them worth writing. We accepted the rules of the game in which no one wins.

Now that the demand is for direct speech, no hints; when it is no longer necessary to contrive way to insinuate that the play "From the Latest News..." is hardly a fine work of art; when the motto of the day is the title of my friend Aleksandr Buravskiy's play "Speak Up!" -- one suddenly feels like thinking. And thinking is painful, very painful.

For example, why have I refused to review the films "Boris Gudunov" and "Lermontov"? First of all, because I don't like singing in chorus; only the laziest critics have not bothered to play and cavort about these fillms. Secondly, playing the role of a small dog biting the dead lion killed by bigger dogs is no tempting offer.

Thirdly, if you did not have the heart to explain to the talented actors Sergey Bondarchuk and Nikolay Burlyayev, long ago, that acting and directing were two different professions, and that it would be a waste to fritter away their gift for acting on mediocre directorship, you should not display heroism at their expense now. The makers of "Boris Gudunov" and "Lermontov" have the right to divide out their guilt with the critics who had kept silent when they ought to have protested loudly, and are loudly protesting now, when they feel they can do so fearlessly.

In Mikhail Roschin's play "Heracles' Seventh Feat" (which remained in the drawer of the playwright's desk for three-and-twenty years and which was only recently published in THE THEATRE monthly), one of the characters says: "...nothing is more painful than to have to justify yourself in front of people other than those you have lived your whole life with."

Anyway, I'll have to try and justify myself. Because in the twenty years I have worked as a critic and journalist, I have not really helped a single person. Thinking about it is painful, very painful.

Why haven't I managed to help the Ariel group from Chelyabinsk? Why haven't I helped the artist Natalya Korobova from Zaporozhye, or the stage director Vyacheslav Kokorin from Blagoveshchensk? Because the moment I returned to the offices of the various publications I had worked for, with the results of the investigation assigned me, I faced the astounding question: "Have you forgotten whose Komsomol youth had begun in Chelyabinsk?" Or: "Shall I remind you who reconstructed the hydroelectric power station in the hard postwar years?"

"Rubbish," you might say, "what can all this have to do with art, and individuals in need of help or recognition?"

But few cared for individuals or wanted to render them concrete assistance. The decisive factor was by no means human. It was the factor of address. If the individual in need of help lived in a hero's birth or work place, woe be to him, and no one was to blame.

I can't help agreeing it was rubbish, but that rubbish moulded our spirit and our characters. Bit by bit, we got accustomed to that rubbish, and it became the abnormal norm of our life. We came to know that someone else's pain was not as painful as you own. We learnt that if a call for help came from the Ukraine, Uzbekistan, the Small Land of the Bolshoy Theatre, it was a waste of breath. I had not understood it all at once, I still used to rush away, time after time, to where the cry came from. But having bumped headlong into official desks too often, I realized that I would neither achieve my ends nor save my face that way. The one thing I did not realize was that to resign meant to lose face. However, my hand no longer obeyed my mind, and when I heard "Chelyabinsk," I wrote "in a certain city."

I am not complaining about my hard life. Nor am I trying to repent the sins, some of which can most conveniently be shifted on to the times, the system, and the circumstances. But the times and the circumstances only crush those who allow themselves to be crushed. Many of us have not been crushed, only bent. Who knows if the figure of a stooping critic, bent low, his eyes shining with "pleasant flattery for the bosses," his hands holding another Ode instead of a critique, is not uglier and more terrible still?

Let me repeat that these notes are by no means a complaint, but an attempt at explaining to myself and others what a difficult, painful and agonizing experience perestroyka is. In the slogan "Perestroyka is the personal concern of everybody," the key word for me is "personal." Perestroyka is individual by nature. You cannot run races and orgnize other mass events with perestroyka. It does not stand the fuss and the speechifying which can do (and are doing) perestroyka untold harm.

I am amazed at the ease and eagerness with which perestroyka was adopted by the people who had been living in clover before it. Those sweet-voiced singers were quick to understand one thing: You only have to report, as before that the plan for perestroyka has been overfulfilled within the shortest time possible and at a minimal cost (of moral anguish and search, I feel like adding, ruefully). It is advisable to add some figures, too, for example, 120 per cent of the mature population has been involved in perestroyka, which as spread from top to bottom and from left to right. You can also say that the immature ones call themselves bad names and beg for severe punishment. Everything is simple and easy, as always. In the past they had reported about the tasks being fulfilled even before the latter were specified; now, they use a dozen or so newly-coined phrases to show they are more progressive than progress: "If others fail to restructure themselves, I'm not to blame!"

The opportunists take perestroyka as yet another opportunity. Before, they lecture to those who dare lag behind. Earlier, they made titanic efforts to make all theatres alike. Now they loudly lament all the theatres being alike. Before, they kept films on the shelves for years, now they are the first to write favourable reviews of those films. Should anything happen tomorrow, the eternal "avantgardists" are sure to recant their views and opinions of today with equal zeal and rapture.

As far as I am concerned, perestroyka comes hardest with those who have been doing at least something to draw it nearer, to make it possible. Vanity is human, and one tends to exaggerate one's own importance in the historic process. But really, upon my word, I did do something I don't have to be ashamed of. I feel strangely proud now that I have been, from my green years, "suffering for criticism", that is to say, for what had been and, hopefully, will again be my profession. I was expelled from the Kiev Drama Institute for a desperately bold review of a cold film made by my cold professor; I had to explain to the editors of a central newspaper why and how. By hook or by crook, I managed to get a review criticizing the films by the First Secretaries of three Republics' Unions, published in its pages; I was reprimanded for mentioning in print the unprintable word, "The Scarecrow", and for criticizing the work of central television at a time when it could only be praised, because it was beyond all criticism.

But I was human and I was weak. I did not have the strength to perform the feats of Heracles. Not all of us humans are like him.

I'm not going to use only bright colors for my self-portrait. I manoeuvred, kept silent and wriggled, sorry to say. I'm not trying to justify myself, or to look for extenuating circumstances. Because it is pointless to try and justify oneself before people other than those one has lived with. Guilt is guilt, no matter how highly one might think of himself.

And yet, why is it so that when the hour we have hardly dreamed of -- the hour of triumph -- has struck, when one hears from all sides the encouraging "Speak up!", one does not speak up, or write, one only ponders.

One ponders over the lack of a moral right to speak about perestroyka as long as one cannot boast on unstained personal history. One also ponders over the ways of getting rid of the slavish psychology we still relapse into all too often. One also thinks that the right to perestroyka ought to be deserved, because perestroyka is no gift of fortune, but fortune itself, offering us yet another chance to build up, repair or rebuild ourselves. One thinks about many things, and thinking is painful, very painful.

One should recall more often the hard years we have lived through. They cannot be crossed out or disregarded, because they have sunk deep into our pores and our hearts. Those were the years of our own lives -- how can we discard them? To avoid repeating the mistakes of the recent past, we should think more often about them. And thinking is painful, very painful. When and if the pain is assuaged through repentence, and we are purified and healed -- only then will it be right to say with confidence that perestroyka has taken place in all, everyone and everything.

When one has nothing to live for, one lives for hope. The best years of our life did not coincide with the best times. But even in the most desperate moments we clung to hope. Of course, we could not expect that instead of gradual reforms and separate improvements we were going to be offered an all-round programme for what could rightly be called revolutionary action. Similarly, no one could foresee that many of us would prove unprepared for such action. Is it because anticipating pain, we were afraid of thinking?

Let us think now, however painful it might be. Let's think about how to act. And let's act as we think right.

This is the only way I see. Perhaps there is no other way. I'm sure there isn't.

## ROY MEDVEDEV WRITES ON CULTURAL 'THAW'

PM111635 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 8 Mar 87 p 4

[Soviet historian Roy Medvedev article: "From Thaw to the Breakup of the Ice"]

[Text] In the last 2 years Western observers have turned their attention above all to the changes in the Soviet Union's political and economic life. They have not, however, paid as much attention to the changes in cultural life.

These became increasingly important between the 27th party congress (late February/early March 1986) and the Central Committee Plenum held in January 1987.

If the Soviet economy in the seventies was characterized by stagnation, it has to be said that there was decline in the cultural field. The most important reason for this was the deterioration in the political and moral climate in society, the fear of everything new and talented, the encouragement given to aggressive second-raters, and direct reprisals and bans. Many prominent authors, poets, artists, and directors emigrated; others devoted themselves to subjects far removed from real life or simply observed a protracted silence.

Natural attrition was also great. In the last 15 years a large number of cultural personalities have died -- men like poet Andrey Tvardovskiy and movie director Mikhail Romm, writers Vladimir Tendryakov and Yuriy Trifonov, composers Dmitriy Shostakovich and Aram Khachaturyan, and writers Fedor Abramov and Konstantin Simonov.

Songwriter, singer, and actor Vladimir Vysotskiy and actor Vasiliy Shukshin died -- neither of them reaching the age of 45.

Many of the masters of Soviet culture have spoken most critically of the period 1970-1985.

"Why is it that readers dissociate themselves from some of our books? The reasons are many. The most important one is that the people want openness. People know the truth about the monstrous power of evil, about corruption, corruptibility, falseness, and hypocrisy.... They see the unfair division of wealth. But they are cheated and given editorially polished, timid books, not 'Dead Souls,' but vaudevilles."

So said the poet Andrey Voznesenskiy, for example, at the Eighth writers' Congress.

Dramatist Mikhail Roshchin wrote in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA on 19 January 1986:

"For every year that passes we are swamped by novels in which only their authors can take pleasure, pictures in which not even their painters can take pleasure, movies that are striking because their creators' personalities are conspicuous by their absence, songs that you cannot possibly sing or listen to."

In the last year it is not only the critical remarks that have continued to grow in number -- the panorama of cultural life has changed. Soviet television has reacted very promptly to the changes in the political climate.

It has become more alive, more interesting, more up-to-date, and more critical. At any rate Soviet people today spend two or three times longer in front of their televisions than they did a few years ago.

The theaters have been just as prompt and flexible, although this applies only to the 1985-1986 season in Moscow and Leningrad.

Major successes have been booked for productions such as A. Stavitskiy's "The Street of Shalom Aleichem" at the Stanislavskiy Theater in Moscow, Edvard Radzinskiy's "Theater in The Age of Nero and Seneca" at the Mayakovskiy Theater in Moscow, and Fedor Burlatskiy's "A Single Night" at Moscow's Theater of Satire.

At Leningrad's Dramatic Theater Director L. Dolin has had success with productions of dramatizations of Fedor Abramov's well known novels "The House" and "Brothers and Sisters." The most important events of last year's season were three other productions.

The most important was the production "Silver Wedding" at the Moscow Arts Theater based on a play by A. Masharin. The culture minister long refused to permit the production and only after Politburo member Yegor Ligachev saw the production did the play make it into the repertoire. The production was also seen by Mikhail Gorbachev and many delegates to the 27th party congress.

The play's main characters are party functionaries from various levels belonging to different generations. All of them are responsible in some way or other for the difficult situation in a remote agricultural region. Some of them have already fallen into corruption, fawning, and the persecution of honorable people; they are incorrigible.

Others' consciences awake and they are prepared to break with former methods and work in a new spirit. Some dream of a return to Stalinism, others are prepared to admit their mistakes and accept democracy and reorganization.

The play is witty; it contains many caustic lines, situations, and allusions which can be fully understood by the Soviet audience. The play's sucess was automatic.

Life in an agricultural region is also depicted in "Speak?" -- a dramatization of Valntin Ovechkin's book, "Provincial Life," which began all of our "rural prose" of the fifties. The young director, V. Fokin, produced the play at the Yermolova Theater in Moscow.

The play seems terribly modern and it is perhaps the first time that not only the party's responsibility but also its guilt in the eyes of the people when it comes to bad leadership have been raised on a Soviet stage.

In the final scene a group of actors, who throughout the play have depicted the people, walks across the stage and repeats a single word: "Speak!" The moral is simple -- unless the people themselves raise their voices there will be no changes.

The third of these most controversial plays of the season was produced by the Lenin Komsomol Theater in Moscow. It is Mikhail Shatrov's play "The Dictatorship of Conscience," in which the dramatist shapes the action by comparing Lenin's words with everything that has happened since the leader's death. [paragraph continues]

The performance takes the form of an exchange of arguments "in court" -- a form of defense of the revolutionary ideas which were popular among young people during the first years of Soviet power.

In the play a modern youth newspaper's editorial board is holding such a "trial." Finally, of course, it is Lenin's ideas which triumph, but the very approach -- of questioning them and allowing the opponents of Leninism to speak -- was considered by the Culture Ministry to be unacceptable, and only after the intervention of Yegor Ligachev and Central Committee Secretry Aleksandr Yakovlev was Shatrov's play allowed to remain in the theater's repertoire.

In the spring of 1986 the moviemakers were also gripped by the movement for renewal and reorganization. The dissatisfaction that had been growing among them for many years found its expression during the preparations for the Fifth Congress of Cinematographers and during the congress itself. The leadership of the Cinematographers' Union was completely replaced and the popular and radical director, Elen Klimov, became its new leader.

The union leadership immediately tackled the task of finding out what had happened to the films which over the last 15-20 years had not been granted exhibition licenses by the Culture Ministry or which had been halted at various stages of their making. In many cases the censors' and editors' conclusions were rejected as unfounded and work on preparing around 10 films for exhibition began.

Less radical was the Eighth Writers' Congress, where the conservative voices within the union leadership are still dominant. Important changes took place here too, nevertheless. Vladimir Karpov was elected first secretary of the union board. His most recent novel, "The Commander" [Haerfoeraren], has attracted widespread attention for its truthful and precise way of depicting the complicated events during World War II.

Writers like Chingiz Aytmatov, Grigoriy Baklanov, Vasiliy Bykov, and Sergey Zalygin were elected to leading posts in the Writers' Union and on literary publications.

Among the literary works which last year attracted the greatest critical attention were two novels. Viktor Astafyev's "Sad Detective Story" (in OKTYABR no 1, 1986) and "The Scaffold" by Chingiz Aytmatov (in NOVYY MIR no 6, 8, 9, 1986).

They are interesting books but are too hurriedly and carelessly written. The authors are openly critical of contemporary reality and of events in the recent past, but the structure and conception of these works have not been properly thought through. It is not surprising that these novels have not had any noticeable success with the broad mass of readers and that many admirers of Astafyev's and Aytmatov's talents have been really disappointed.

The renewal of cultural life has been aided by the fact that the powers and functions of Glavlit, an institution which for decades has acted as a political censorship organ, have been restricted.

Today Glavlit must conform strictly to its official function -- protecting military and state secrets in the press. Newspaper, periodical, and publishing house editors -- and in particular those chief editors appointed by the party -- have been given significantly broader powers and greater scope.

In the spring of 1986 everyone was talking about a "thaw." But by the fall of the same year (to say nothing of the present, in early 1987) it was more a question of an ice-break than a thaw. If you look at how quickly the changes are taking place and at their anti-Stalinist thrust, what is happening now is like what happened in our country in 1962-64. But in the last 20 years the important events of the sixties have not been followed up, even less developed. It is only now that this interrupted "time band" is beginning to be restored.

It is possible to talk about this continuity -- both in the word's primary and secondary meanings [continuing without interruption and continuing after an interruption] -- since many of the works we are reading in periodicals or are seeing on the cinema or television screen were actually created in the sixties. In the late sixties the director A. German created the excellent film "Checks on the Roads" [Kontroller paa vaegarna]. Tens of millions of television viewers were recently able to see a series made in 1965-68 by dramatist Mikhail Shatrov and director L. Pchelkin with the title "Strands from a portrait of V.I. Lenin."

The large-scale series had already been completed and had already been passed by a large number of commissions when the final and most petty [smaaaktigast] commission not only banned the television series but also ordered that it should be destroyed. By chance a copy survived in the television archives.

The periodical ZNAMYA (nos 10 and 11, 1986) published Aleksandr Bek's short yet extraordinarily rich novel "The New Appointment," which the author completed 22 years previously. The authors draws psychologically exact portraits of Stalin, Beria, and Ordzhonikidze.

The model for central character A. Onisimov was the well known "Stalin people's commissar" Ivan Tevosyan, who headed the country's metal industry for more than 15 years; he was considered to be determined and tough, but fair.

Onisimov-Tevosyan and Beria are deadly enemies. Beria is the all-powerful chief of the Soviet organs of oppression and of the secret police. But Stalin does not allow Beria to touch Onisimov, and instead appoints him people's commissar. Onisimov's friends and relatives die one after the other in the Lubyanka prison's cellars, but Stalin has faith in his new commissar and actually considers him to be one of his friends.

Onisimov has no doubts that the main reason for Stalin's "mercy" is an episode way back in the past when he betrayed his friend Ordzhonikidze after he happened to witness a vehement clash between him and Stalin.

I knew Aleksandr Bek well and read the manuscript of his novel as long ago as 1965. The author died in 1972 and did not therefore live to see his novel published.

The same applies to our great poet and NOVYY MIR chief editor Aleksandr Tvardovskiy and his last great suite of poems "By Right of Memory." The long poem has now been published in ZNAMYA's February 1987 issue. In my archives I have the proofs of this poem with Tvardovskiy's dedication date June 1969.

The poet wrote about "a merciless youth" when as a student at the teachers' high school he was forced to dissociate himself from his father -- a simple village smith and later soldier in the Red Army who was branded a "kulak" and deported with his family to somewhere beyond the Urals.

With anger Tvardovskiy also writes about how millions of innocent people were condemned, about the frightening Kolyma camps, about how Stalin was idolized in the past, and about the Stalinists' attempts to rehabilitate him.

It is of course most important that both Tvardovskiy's poem and Bek's novel have finally been published. In the sixties they would have been able to attract greater attention and have a greater effect both on literary life and the life of society.

Among other literary works we must mention Vladimir Dudintsev's novel "White Coats" [Vita klaeder], whose publication has begun in the periodical NEVA, and Daniil Granin's novel "The Bull," printed in the periodical NOVYY MIR. Both these works throw light -- from different viewpoints and with different degrees of talent -- on one and the same topic, the tragic fate of Soviet biology and genetics from the thirties into the fifties.

All of last season's must successful theatrical productions have been printed in the periodical TEATR and have been recommended for performance in the provinces. They are being perfomred today in more than a dozen theaters.

A production of the tragedy "The Sarcophagus" by Vladimir Gubarev -- a play about the first days of the Chernobyl catastrophe -- has also been recommended.

After many ifs and buts Moscow's Theater of Satire has been given permission to produce Nikolay Erdman's play, "A Suicide's Tribulations" [En sjaelvmoerdares vedermoedor], which was written -- and banned -- as long ago as the thirties.

At the congresses held in the late fall of 1986 after pressure from opinion in the theater world a Soviet Theater Union was formed with counterparts in the various republics of the union. The most authoritative directors and actors were elected the leaders of these unions.

Yet the central event in the last few months' cultural life in the Soviet Union is the film "Repentance" by Georgian director Tengiz Abuladze. It is difficult to describe the plot of this unusually beautiful and at the same time frightening surrealistic film, a masterpiece without parallel in Soviet moviemaking when it comes to its effect on its audience.

The film unmasks Stalinism and its crimes. Its central character, Varlam Aravidze, bears an outward similarity to Beria, but he also has elements of Stalin, Hitler, and Mussolini. The film leaves no one unaffected. The audience often breaks into applause after the movie and when you meet friends and acquaintances in Moscow the first thing they ask is: "Have you seen 'Repentance'?"

Unlike the early sixties, the changes in cultural life are not accompanied by open conflict or newspaper polemics. Nevertheless a struggle is going on at levels to which the public does not have access, and this often takes the form of insinuations, slanders, anonymous letters, and complicated bureaucratic intrigues. Prominent representatives of the creative intelligentsia who support the major changes taking place in the field of culture are therefore also simultaneously voicing their fears.

This shows once again that it is not liberalization but democratization which must form the backbone of cultural policy. [paragraph continues]

Poets and artists do not need more tolerant and more liberal leaders and "bosses" -- they must be given real freedom to create along with the freedom to criticize, and the freedom to form their own views and to debate.

It is not the highest "authorities" in the party, but the people themselves -- culture's consumers -- who should determine the fate of culture. It is not new, "more liberal" directives, but the free competition of cultural talents and cultural values which are able to create a really viable foundation for the powerful and lasting development of culture.

## ZHDANOV, WIFE SUE TRUD FOR 'SLANDER'

AU222021 Paris AFP in English 2006 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, March 22 (AFP) -- Painter Aleksandr Zhdanov and his wife Galina have sued the Soviet labor unions' newspaper TRUD after it alleged that they fomented their daughter's defection to the West in 1982.

In the complaint, the Zhdanovs asked the court of Frunze, district of Moscow, to defend their "honor" and "dignity" and to deny the "slanderous" reports.

They also demanded that the court set a date for the publication in the press of a "refutation of all the false facts reported in the article" and take legal action against the newspaper's editorial staff and the author of the article.

Vasa Zhdanov, who defected to the West in 1982 while taking part in a swimming competition in Madrid, now lives in the United States.

Her parents have been repeatedly denied permission to emigrate to the United States and last week appealed to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to raise their case with the Soviet authorities during their forthcoming visits.

## LEADERS SIGN OBITUARY OF FORMER DIPLOMAT GUSEV

PM170905 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 6

[Obituary of Fedor Tarasovich Gusev]

[Excerpts] Fedor Tarasovich Gusev, eminent Soviet diplomat, CPSU member since 1930, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, and personal pensioner of union status, died 9 March 1987 after a long and severe illness. [passage omitted]

G.A. Aliyev, A.A. Gromyko, E.A. Shevardnadze, A.F. Dobrynin, V.A. Medvedev, S.V. Chervonenko, Yu.M. Vorontsov, A.G. Kovalev, A.L. Adamishin, A.A. Bessmertnykh, L.F. Ilichev. V.G. Komplektov, V.P. Loginov, V.M. Nikiforov, V.F. Petrovskiy, I.A. Rogachev, B.N. Chaplin, V.I. Dolgov

## DECREE ADOPTED ON TRANSFER TO MULTISHIFT WORK

Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 27 Feb 87 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, and the AUCCTU have adopted the decree "Transition of Associations, Enterprises and Organizations of Industry and Other Sectors of the Economy to Multishift Operation To Enchance Production Efficiency".

The decree observes that realization of the principles of the 27th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum for an improvement in the use of the production potential which has been created, an acceleration of S&T progress and the increased efficiency of the economy is inseparably connected with the transition of associations, enterprises, and organizations of industry, construction, transport, the agro-industrial complex and other sectors to a multishift work mode. Accomplishment of this task is an integral part of the restructuring of the economy and its transition to an intensive development path.

The experience of the work of the workforce of enterprises of Leningrad, Kharkov, Ulyanovsk, and other oblasts shows convincingly that transition of equipment to two- and three-shift operation makes it possible in a short time to enhance production efficiency appreciably and simultaneously affords opportunities for an improvement in the working people's social-everyday conditions.

At the same time the decree points out that this important initiative of the labor outfits is not being disseminated extensively as yet. Certain party, soviet, economic, and labor union authorities are, as before, putting the main emphasis on the extensive path of development and continuing to seek the allocation of additional capital investments for the formation of new jobs without regard for the situation actually taking shape with respect to labor, material, and financial resources, whereas there are low returns from the use of the production potential which has been created. The accomplishment of urgent social everyday tasks in the labor outfits is being made more difficult in this connection.

The USSR ministries and departments and union republic councils of ministers are not displaying consistency and perseverance in increasing the equipment load and transferring enterprises and associations to a multishift work mode and failing to provide for the purposeful control of fixed capital reproduction processes.

Less than full use of operating production capacity is being made in heavy industry, power engineering, construction and agriculture. An inauspicious situation has taken shape in machine building, where the equipment shift-work coefficient is declining systematically and many enterprises are working just one shift. It is particularly impermissible when the latest equipment -- machine tools with numerical programmed control, machining centers, industrial robots, flexible production modules, and computer complexes -- have a low shift-work coefficient.

The system of moral and material incentive is insufficiently interesting workers and specialists in the fuller and more efficient use of equipment.

The lack of coordination of the operating mode of transport and trade and establishments of the public health, education, culture and other sectors of the service sphere is not contributing to the active transfer of enterprises of the production sectors to two- and three-shift operation.

The CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, and AUCCTU have deemed it necessary to transfer equipment to a two-shift modus operandi, and unique and costly equipment, to a three-shift mode in 1987-88. Where necessary per production conditions and given the use of particular special equipment, to employ a four-shift mode of operation. It is important here to secure the achievement of specific economic results -- a growth of production, an improvement in the quality and rhythmic nature of the manufacture of products, a rise in labor productivity, a lowering of capital investment requirements and an improvement in the workmen's work and social conditions.

The said demands must be made the basis of the planning of production and capital investments, the design and commissioning of capacity, the balancing of the number of jobs with labor resources, and the improvement of the organization of production and labor.

The attention of union republic Communist Party Central Committees, kraykoms, obkoms, okruzhkoms, gorkoms and raykoms, USSR ministries and departments, union and autonomous republic councils of ministers, local soviet ispolkoms, labor union and Komsomol authorities, and associations, enterprises, and organizations is called to the fact that transition to multishift operating conditions is a most important economic-political task in a fundamental improvement in the use of production potential. It is essential to concentrate efforts on the retooling and modernization of production, the accelerated replacement of the active part of fixed capital, achievement of the rated level of capacity and the maximum use of progressive highly productive equipment under multishift operating conditions for the successful realization of the quotas of the 12th 5-Year Plan. It was noted that it is necessary to secure an intensification of organizing and mass-political work in the labor outfits, intelligibly convey to each workman the essence and national economic significance of the transfer for enterprises to multishift operating conditions and increase exactingness with respect to the selection and assignment of personnel with regard for the tasks confronting the country.

Organization of Work on Introduction of the Two- and Three- Shift Labor Mode in the Production Sectors [subhead]

The leaders of associations, enterprises, and organizations in conjunction with party, union, and Komsomol organizations and with the extensive participation of the working people are instructed to cater for the transfer of equipment to multishift operating conditions it is deemed expedient for this purpose:

To elaborate specific measures pertaining to the transfer of bays, shops and works to operation in two and three shifts. To implement the transfer gradually, making the maximum use of fixed production capital, particularly the active part thereof, and each square meter of production area;

To enhance the role of certification of jobs, paying particular attention to an improvement in the structure of the installed pool of equipment and its increased productivity and the load of the machine tools, machinery, units, and each workplace. To prevent a formal approach to this work;

To enlist the workers, designers, production engineers, and other specialists more extensively in the elaboration and implementation of measures pertaining to the promotion of the efficiency of production thanks to the introduction of modern production processes, the development and creation of mechanization and automation facilities and an extension of the specialization and cooperation of production;

On the basis of certification to undertake everywhere the modernization of operating equipment and fit it with means of automation, programmed control and program checks and highly productive tools and fixtures;

To transfer all highly productive, unique and advanced equipment to a three- and four-shift operating mode. To strive to ensure that the physical wear and tear of this equipment outpace its obsolescence. For ministries and departments to determine lists of such equipment;

To ascertain and dismantle old, physically worn, and obsolescent equipment and also superflous small-load equipment. To use the production area thus released to remove bottlenecks, increase the manufacture of products of which there is an acute shortage and consumer goods, develop in-house production of production equipment for the needs of the enterprise and sector, create modern check facilities and test benches, and expand the experimental facilities for a rise in production quality and also for an improvement in the workmen's work and social conditions;

Cater for the sale of or transfer, at one's own discretion, superfluous equipment with regard for the needs of enterprises and organizations located on the territory of the local soviet of people's deputies. To channel the resources obtained from the sale thereof into an increase in the production development fund and, where necessary, to write off equipment for scrap if it is worn or obsolete;

To prevent the transfer of bays, shops, and works to a multishift work mode by way of a mechanical redistribution of workers by shift without an in-depth economic analysis and production need. To ensure strict compliance with labor laws;

To restructure the oganization of labor, paying particular attention to the creation of comprehensive (multishift) composite brigades and also outfits of bays and shops working on contract conditions;

To undertake the retraining and improvement of workers for their further use in jobs with progressive equipment and technology and in newly organized plans;

To conduct in the labor outfits everywhere wide-ranging explanatory work concerning the goals and tasks of the transfer to a multishift labor mode. To carry out the transfer only after in-depth study, thorough preparation and the solution of all production and social questions connected with this. The transfer to the new labor mode must unfailingly be discussed in the brigade, bay, shop, and enterprise workforce;

To direct the creative search of members of the outfit toward the successful accomplishment of the set task. To inculcate in them an awareness that, under the conditions of work on the basis of full cost accounting and self-financing, an increase in the shift-work factor is an essential requirement of a growth of production efficiency.

It is proposed that the USSR ministers and departments and union republic councils of ministers organize the work on the transfer of associations, enterprises, and organizations to multishift labor and factor in in full here the production potential which has been created. Allocate the enterprises new equipment on condition that their operating analogous equipment is being used in no less than two shifts. When drawing up stable economic norms, to take into consideration the degree of use of association, enterprise and organization fixed production capital and create advantages for the labor outfits which achieve the greatest output per unit of equipment and workplace. Implement the transfer of the associations, enterprises, and organizations to multishift operating conditions on a regional basis -- on a rayon and city scale at the decision of the local soviet ispolkom and labor union authority and the corresponding ministries and departments. Render the labor outfits assistance in the elaboration and realization of plans for the transition to multishift labor conditions. Constantly monitor the progress of this work.

It has been determined that, at the time of the transition of association, enterprises, and organizations to a multishift operating mode, USSR ministries and departments and union republic councils of ministers will leave at their disposal the amounts of capital investments, contract work and material-technical resources released as compared to the amounts envisaged for the 12th 5-Year Plan. The said capital and resources will be used for the construction of housing and other social facilities, the retooling and modernization of operating production and the updating of jobs based on the use of the latest highly productive equipment and also for the transfer on a several basis to the local soviet ispolkoms for the implementation of measures connected with an improvement in service of the population.

Restructuring of the Operating Mode of the Service Sphere and Socio-Cultural Sectors [subhead]

It was noted that in the solution of the national economic problem of an intensification of production based on an increase in the shift-work factor in the production sectors an important place is assigned organizations and establishments of the service sphere and the socio-cultural sectors. Success -- the transfer to a multishift operating mode -- will depend on their precise operation to a considerable extent.

The union and autonomous republic councils of ministers and local soviet ispolkoms in conjunction with USSR ministries and departments and the corresponding labor union authorities and enterprises, organizations, and establishments of the service sphere and socio-cultural sectors are instructed:

To ensure in 1987-88 the restructuring of the operating mode of enterprises and organizations of transport and communications, trade, public catering and consumer service, educational institutions and preschool, cultural-educational and sports-workout establishments and other organizations and also the law enforcement authorities, having in mind the creation for the workers and employees of the production sectors being transferred to a multishift operating mode the conditions most conducive to highly productive labor and full-fledged recreation. To implement measures in this connection in organizations of the service area, providing for a further improvement of their material-technical facilities, a strengthening of labor and production discipline and an increase in the responsibility of each workman for his assigned task;

To take into consideration to the maximum extent the proposals and desires of the workforce of enterprises of the production sectors being transferred to multishift operating conditions, using for this sociological surveys and other forms of study of public opinion;

To expand in 1987-88 the network of kindergarten and creches which cater for children around the clock, having in mind the complete satisfaction of the need for these preschool establishments. To organize where necessary, at the decision of the rayispolkom (gorispolkom), 24-hour duty groups with a varying body of less than 20 children;

To provide with regard for specific conditions for an increase in the general schools of extended-day groups, and for children with long school hours, to organize at the decision of the rayispolkom (gorispolkom) duty groups with a varying body of less than 30 students;

To create the necessary conditions for the children's preparation for lessons and organization of their free time in extended-day groups and broaden the opportunities for children's participation in groups of technical, artistic and other types of independent creativity and for physical culture and sports classes;

To ensure the organization of hot meals for workers and employees working evening and night shifts and the establishment of operating hours of canteens and refreshment rooms on the job and at the dormitory facilities which are convenient for them;

To develop the sales network and consumer service directly in the associations, at enterprises and in organizations, create at enterprises and construction sites and on sovkhozes and kolkhozes with regard for the proposals of the workforce acceptance points for shoe and clothing repairs, laundry and dry cleaning, and develop advance-order trade;

To provide for the opening of extended-hours stores in direct proximity to large-scale enterprises and construction sites to serve the workmen after the end of each shift;

To establish working hours for health care and cultural establishments with regard for multishift work in the production sectors;

To organize the work of the schools of working youth and evening branches of secondary specialized and higher educational institutions in accordance with the working hours of associations, enterprises and organizations;

To make the necessary changes to the timetable of suburban and local trains and the operation of the metro and to the schedules and routes of general ground passenger transport to create the maximum conveniences for persons working under multishift conditions;

To cater for the operation of sports-workout installations every day of the work week with regard for the transfer of associations, enterprises, and organizations to multishift work.

The union republic councils of ministers and USSR ministries and departments in conjunction with the USSR Gosplan, USSR Gossnab, and USSR Ministry of Finance are instructed to provide in the established procedure for enterprises, organizations, and establishments engaged in consumer service the allocation of material-technical and financial resources and also labor quotas in connection with the change in their working conitions in accordance with this decree.

Measures To Increase the Material and Moral Stimulation of Workers and Employees for Work Under Multishift Conditions [subhead]

It is deemed necessary to enhance appreciably the role of moral incentives and the financial interest of the workers, specialists and employees in work per multishift conditions.

It is recommended that leaders of associations, enterprises and organizations in conjunction with labor union committees:

Give preference when summing up socialist competition results, making recommendations for honorary titles and other awards and also when applying other incentive measures to workmen and outfits of brigades, bays, and shops working under multishift conditions and achieving high production indicators and efficient equipment use;

Increase for workers employed in operations under multishift conditions the amounts of compensation for overall work results per the year's totals;

Introduce with regard for production necessity and available opportunities hot meals free or at reduced cost for persons working the night shift from the resources of the socio-cultural measures and housing construction fund (social development fund);

Create advantages when granting annual leave for these workmen and also in the distribution of passes for recreation, the allocation of orchard-truck garden plots and the rendering of other social-everyday services.

Introduced for workers, foremen, and leaders of bays and other subdivisions and specialists and employees working under two- and three-shift conditions in associations, at enterprises and in organizations of industry, construction, transport, and communications and also in the processing sectors of the agro-industrial complex are:

A. An addition for evening shift work of 20 percent, and for night shift work, of 40 percent of the hourly wage rate (salary scale) for each hour of work on the corresponding shift. The said addition for night shift work will be paid if no less than 50 percent of the duration thereof pertains to nighttime (from 2200 through 0600). These additions are introduced in place of the differential for nighttime work. In cases where the additions for work on evening or night shifts are less than the sum total of the differential for hours of work at nighttime, the current procedure of remuneration for work at nighttime provided for by legislation for workmen of individual sectors is maintained.

The USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Questions has in conjunction with the AUCCTU been granted the right to adopt decisions concerning particularities of the application and introduction of the said additions in individual production sectors;

B. Additional leave for workmen working in two shifts on the basis of 1 day for every 2 years worked, but not more than 2 days, and for those working in three shifts, 1 day for every year worked, but no more than 4 days. The length of the leave is determined depending on the number of evening and night shifts worked. It is determined that the right to the said additional leave will be enjoyed by workers and employees who have worked no less than 50 percent of evening or night shifts in the work year (no less than 60 evening or 40 night shifts). The length of work for granting this leave is computed from 1 January 1987.

Such leave is introduced over and above other supplementary leave envisaged for the corresponding categories of workmen. The total amount of annual leave here must not exceed 1 calendar month (30 calendar days) if leave of longer duration has not been determined by legislation.

The said additions and leave for work under multishift conditions will be introduced from resources earned by the workforce within the limits of the wage fund and material incentive fund (common material incentive fund) formed per stable norms.

The USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Questions has in conjunction with the AUCCTU been instructed to provide the necessary explanations concerning the procedures for the establishment of supplementary leave for work on evening and night shifts.

For application of the most rational modes of labor and recreation under the conditions of two- and three-shift work it is determined that in associations, at enterprises and in organizations of industry, construction, transport, and communications and also in processing enterprises of the agro-industrial complex the normal duration of work in daytime and evening shifts, given a 5-day work week, should not exceed 8 hours with the corresponding working of additional shifts ensuring in the course of the year compliance with the duration of the work week stipulated by legislation. The time of work on a night shift is reduced by 1 hour. The total number of working days in a year here under the conditions of three-shift operation must not exceed the total number of work days given one- and two-shift work. In connection with the reduction in the length of the night shift by 1 hour it is deemed necessary to give those working on a time rate an additional payment of 1 hour of the wage rate over and above the addition determined by this legislation for night shift work.

The said operating conditions for associations, enterprises, and organizations will be implemented without a lowering of production volume and labor productivity growth quotas. Different operating modes for individual associations, enterprises and organizations will be employed with the authorization of the higher economic and labor union authorities.

To increase the financial interest of persons employed in continuous operations additional payments and supplementary leave will be introduced for them for work in evening and night shifts in the amounts and on the conditions provided for by this decree if the said benefits are higher than analogous current benefits.

It is recommended that to create advantages for persons working under multishift conditions the leaders of associations, enterprises and organizations of the production sectors in conjunction with labor union committees make full use of the rights accorded them in the sphere of remuneration, bonus payments, and the determination of additional payments, allowances, and other benefits within the timeframes and on the conditions stipulated by CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, and AUCCTU Decree 1115 of 17 September 1986.

The leaders of associations, enterprises, organizations, and establishments are authorized following coordination with the labor union committees the establishment, given production need, within the limits of the wage fund for persons directly serving the public, for whom, with their consent, a work day with the division of the shift into two parts (with a break in work lasting more than 2 hours) will be introduced, of additional pay for the time worked on these days of up to 30 percent of the wage rate (salary) or piece-rate earnings.

Leaders of associations, enterprises, and organizations of production sectors are accorded the right to allocate, with the consent of the workforce, part of the resources of the material incentive fund (common material incentive fund) for the payment of bonuses to workers of enterprises, organizations, and establishments of the service sphere with whom contracts for services rendered the working people working under multishift conditions have been concluded.

It is proposed that the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, newspaper and journal editorial offices, the All-Union "Znaniye" Society, and the S&T and scientific-economic society central boards extensively illustrate the experience of work outfits of associations, enterprises, and organizations, ministries and departments and rayons, cities, oblasts, krays, and republics pertaining to the transition to multishift operating conditions and the increase secured on this basis in the manufacture of top-quality products and an increase in production efficiency.

This decree also extends to pilot (experimental) works, shops, workshops, bays, and facilities of research, design, and production engineering organizations of the production sectors and also of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the union republic academies of sciences and the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education.

The CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, and the AUCCTU expressed the confidence that the work force of associations, enterprises, and organizations and the party, soviet, labor union and Komsomol authorities will tackle successfully the task pertaining to transition to multishift operating conditions and on this basis fundamentally improve the use of current production potential.

## UNSPRINGLIKE MARCH RETARDS FARMING WORK

PM201331 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 1

[O. Pavlov "Agricultural Review": "Value of This Day"]

[Text] The value of the spring day is high today. Why is this?

It so happens that this spring March is, so far, less "springlike" than February was. In February, field work began in a number of parts of the country but now it is colder, there are snowfalls.... Only in the Transcaucasian valleys, in Turkmenia, and in some places in Central Asia is something being done, but these are not the main jobs, just partial top dressing of crops (approximately 3.5 million hectares in the country as a whole -- still a trifling amount). In water supply irrigation, again not all that much has been done. Spring crops (all kinds) have been sown over an area of only approximately 200,000 hectares -- such a low figure by the middle of March has not been seen for a long time.

This is a result, in particular, of the fact that the traditional "February and March break in the weather" have not occurred on the Don and in the Kuban, the Ukrainian left bank region is covered with snow, and the Crimea sowing campaign, which was on the point of beginning, has been suspended due to the weather.

What, then, is the opinion of USSR State Agro-industrial Committee specialists? They believe that the situation in the spring field is complex and -- most importantly -- unusual, but certainly not very bad. There has not been such a potential reserve of moisture in many grain regions for a long time. Now it is important to make skillful use of this moisture.

This is what is being done, for example, in the Ukraine and in Volgograd Oblast. In order to avoid a freshet, which will rush water into ravines, gullies, and rivers, snow plows are shifting the snow in different directions. This will weaken the force of the flow and make it possible to retain the water in the soil. But here is a detail: The soil is still frozen hard. Therefore fissuring [shchelevaniye] is being carried out -- a technological operation which is not that common in arable farming here, but has been mastered in time by specialists and machine operators.

There are other solutions too, and bold ones. Having been left practically without a winter-sown area, farms in Donetsk Oblast's Starobeshevskiy Rayon intend this year to ensure the planned grain yield. They have decided to make good the losses in the grain balance by making more intensive use of the spring field. They have been taken 20,000 hectares of less-productive land out of active crop rotation.

This is, at first sight, paradoxical, but it has been occasioned by concern for the land's future well-being and productivity. The point is that a large proportion of the fields there are sited on sloping tracts that are constantly subjected to wind and water erosion. In addition, pursuit of gross grain yield by any means has led to the fields' "depersonalization." Everything has been done with a view to the average hectare -- that was how fertilizers and chemicals were applied and equipment allocated.

In order to get out of that situation, they have decided to give one-fourth of the entire area a 5-year "vacation" and to concentrate all the freed resources on the remaining tracts and introduce intensive techniques of the cultivation of grain crops.

Such thrifty enterprise must have one more substantial advantage. The need to recruit large forces of machinery for the annual tilling of these tracts evaporates. So it turns out that cuts are being made here in order, essentially, to secure an increase.

It is quite clear that schedules for field work are being compressed to the utmost, and the load on equipment and people will increase.

But what of today? Let us take a look at RSFSR farms. According to the RSFSR Central Statistical Administration, as of 1 March kilkhozes and sovkhozes had 102 percent of their requirement for seeds of grain and pulse crops (excluding corn). But this overall indicator must not give such great cause for rejoicing. What requirement? The average annual one? But we already know that there will have to be considerable resowing of winter crops. THis means that more seeds will be needed, most likely not just 2 percent more.

The availability of seeds of grain crops is low on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the Dagestan (95 percent of the requirement), Kalmyk (82 percent), and Tuva (93 percent) Autonomous Republics, in Krasnoyarsk Kray (93 percent), and in Astrakhan (84 percent), Volgograd (85 percent), and Rostov (90 percent) Oblasts. All the same, the level of first- and second-class seeds is low. There are more substandard seeds than last year -- 10 percent against 8 percent.

There are a lot of substandard seeds of spring grain crops on farms in the Kalmyk ASSR and in Arkhangelsk, Ivanovo, Irkutsk, Kalinin, Kirov, Kostroma, Omsk, Smolensk, Tomsk, Kurgan, Perm, Sverdlovsk, and Tyumen Oblasts.

Of course, the grainfield is the chief thing, but not the only thing.

It is not for nothing that potatoes are called the "second grain." Well, kolkhozes and sovkhozes in 25 oblasts and autonomous republics are fully supplied with seed potatoes.

However, the picture is not the same everywhere. By the beginning of March the requirement for seed potatoes had been met by 96 percent on Kirov Oblast farms. But Bogorodskiy Rayon kolkhozes and sovkhozes have only 46 percent of their requirement, including 9 percent on the "Ryabinosvkiy" Sovkhoz! The Kirov Kolkhoz and the Lobanskiy Sovkhoz each have 20 percent.

Against an average provision of 97 percent in Orel Oblast, Sverdlovskiy Rayon farms have 52 percent and the Kurakinskiy Sovkhoz 24 percnet of their requirement, while there are no seed potatoes at all on the "Put Illicha" and "Krasnaya Zvezda" Kolkhozes. There are similar examples on a number of farms in Gorkiy, Kalinin, Perm, Smolensk, and Tula Oblasts. Loss of seeds during storage is the chief reason for their low provision or absence.

Preparation of seeds of long-stemmed flax is proceeding slowly. Almost all the seeds are substandard in Novgorod, Kirov, and Pskov Oblast farms. On kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the Udmurt ASSR and in Kalinin, Kaluga, Smolensk, and Yaroslavl Oblasts such seeds make up 76-81 percent of the quantity checked.

This is the lesson we are taught by the winter or, rather, by the still low standard of management.

Every year our State Agro-Industrial Committee repair base notches up an extra percentage point or two in the readiness of machinery by spring. So far there has not been a very great increase, particularly in the tractor category. Yet these tractors will have to work hard.

The spring day is very valuable. Especially this spring. New tasks have to be resolved. And delay could affect the end result on which we are counting.

## UKRAINE PREPARES FOR POSSIBLE SPRING FLOODS

AU181408 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 14 Mar 87 p 3

[Repot by V. Tkach, Ukrainian minister of land reclamation and water resources, and N. Skrypnik, chief of the Ukrainian republic-level Administration for Hydrometeorology and Environment Control: "What Kind of Spring Waters Will There Be?"]

[Excerpts] /Well, spring has come. True enough, one still hears the crunch of frost underfoot, but sunshine is growing stronger, and spring waters will begin to run soon. What kind of spring will there be this year -- with rapid and uninterrupted melting of snow, or not; with high waters and big floods, or prolonged, with slow melting?/ [slantlines denote boldface as published]

In accordance with data supplied by the USSR State Committee and the Ukrainian Administration for Hydrometeorology and Environment Control, the spring high water expected in the republic's rivers is likely to range between an average close to normal, and an increased one, 1.5-2 times more than the annual average. In the east of the republic -- in Voroshilovgrad, Donetsk, and Kharkov Oblasts, in the basins of the Severnyy Donets and of the rivers discharging in the Azov Sea -- floods are likely to be extensive, and the drainage of water in the Severnyy Donets may exceed 1,000-1,200 cubic meters per second, or 2.5 times more than normal. To reduce the areas affected by flooding, the basic water-regulating reservoirs in the region have been emptied to a minimum to enable them, when high waters reach their peak, to accomodate part of the run off and to lessen flooding.

Very high water is expected in the rivers Samara, Sula, Psel, Vorskla, and their tributaries. Villages are likely to be partially flooded in Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporozhye, and Kherson Oblasts.

Interdepartmental conferences in the Ukrainian Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources have examined and approved work regulations for reservoirs in the basins of the Severnyy Donets, and Donbass and Krivoy Rog Oblast, as well as for reservoirs in the area of the Dnepr waterfall.

In all oblasts and rayons, special commissions to fight floods have been set up under executive committees of the local soviets ot people's deputies. Emergency materials have been stored, and means for diverting water have been prepared. Special emergency and rescue teams have been set up under administratios in charge of land amelioration systems and reservoirs. These teams have at their disposal transportation means and equipment. [passage omitted]

As reported in the press, as early as July-October 1986 special protective dams and filtering dykes have been built in the contaminated zone of the Chernobyl AES to purify flowing water. So-called "traps" have also been created to keep earth from shifting. [Passage omitted]

Provisions have been made to fill the Kakhovka and the Kremenchug reservoirs with high water overflowing from the Psel, the Sula, the Vorskla, the Ros, and other rivers.

All these measures will make it possible to ensure a smooth water supply to the population and the national economy in the Dnepr basin. [passage omitted]

The spring high water in the Southern Bug is expected to be close to normal. However, precautions should also be taken there. [passage omitted]

The spring high water in the Dnestr is expected to be within normal limits. If temperatures rise suddenly, the Prut and the Seret with their tributaries are likely to flood the floodlands. [passage omitted]

In accordance with data supplied by the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environment Control, significant spring high waters are to be expected in the current year in the Danube. In the river sector along the Soviet frontier -- from Reni to Izmail -- protective dams have been built, capable of protecting the area if the water level in the Danube rises by 4.5-5 meters. But in the Kilin-Volkovo sector, dams only protect lands, and for this reason localities are likely to be completely or partially flooded. In this connection, the Odessa Oblast commission for the struggle against natural disasters should work out a plan for the evacuation of the population and national economic facilities from the flooded area. In the Carpathian rivers, the spring high water is expected to be close to normal. [passage omitted]

## FURTHER UPDATE OF COSMONAUTS' ACTIVITIES

LD201105 Moscow TASS in English 0913 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 20 TASS -- A TASS special correspondent reports from the Mission Control Centre:

Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin are in the seventh week of their mission in near-space orbit. Over the past days, the crew of the manned complex Mir carried out a number of medical experiments and earth surface phtography.

The cosmonauts have completed the unloading of the transport ship Progress-28. All cargoes delivered into the orbit have been transferred into the station and drinking water has been pumped over.

A large part of the working time today was devoted to geophysical experiments being carried out within the framework of a large programme for the exploration of the earth's natural resources and environmental studies. Several series of photography of various regions of the USSR, including the territory of the Soviet Central Asian republics, the Caspian lowland and the Caucasus have been carried out by means of stationary photographic equipment and spectrometers.

According to the reports of the crew and telemetric data the flight is proceeding normally, the cosmonauts are in good health and feel well.

### Further Experiments

LD210238 [Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1200 GMT on 20 March 1987 broadcasts a 3-minute report by Leonid Lazarevich on technological experiments being conducted by cosmonauts Laveykin and Romanenko aboard the Mir complex.

Semiconductor devices have now been obtained in space, Lazarevich says, adding that such experiments in growing crystals in weightlessness were conducted on the Salyut-7 station; now on board the Mir station the Korund has been installed. It has a microcomputer that can itself give commands for producing materials in the electrically heated furnace, and has an on-the-spot temperature control. The temperature of the device can be regulated from 20-1,200 degrees Centigrade.

In a communications session the cosmonauts themselves said of the device that it is a test semi-industrial device which is very compact, small, convenient to use. It consists of six units, which the cosmonauts themselves fitted together, and a very small metallurgy unit. It can weld specimens for obtaining high-quality semiconductor material. Further modules are to be attached on the Mir station, less compact and more on a full industrial scale, like workshops in space: this can be expected in the next 7 to 10 years.

However, adds Lazarevich, this is not all without problems: during tests when the installation was switched on it turned out that one of the units was heating up from the air being emitted from the furnace. But once a protective screen and an air duct were installed the apparatus began to work perfectly.